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Will Smith is king of big-budget summer films

Page 21



Army finds 94 cases of prisoner abuse in Iraq, Afghanistan

Page 4



Army-Europe golf championships decided

Page 30

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FRIDAY, JULY 23, 2004

50¢

Panel: U.S. misjudged pre-Sept. 11 threats

Commission calls for new intelligence command Page 12



From left, Grimes, Hall and Broughton

Military lawyers push the pedal to the metal for triathlons

Page 8

PHOTOS BY JESSICA INGO/Stars and Stripes
From left, Capt. Ben Grimes, Gray B. Broughton and Travis W. Hall, all judge advocates with V Corps in Heidelberg, Germany, practice Tuesday for the Heidelbergman competition. They completed the Opel Ironman Germany triathlon competition in Frankfurt earlier this month and are preparing for a similar competition in Heidelberg.

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TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	23
Annual Roundup	18-19
Classified	26-27
Comics	21-23
Crossword	22
Faces 'n' Places	21
Horoscope	21
Letters	14
Opinion	15
Sports	28-36
TV listings	20
Weather	17
Your Money	16

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

R.I. nightclub fire: More than 200 survivors of last year's Rhode Island nightclub fire and relatives of those killed sued the state, club owners and a former band tour manager Thursday, marking the largest wave of plaintiffs to file suit over the deadly blaze.

The lawsuit was filed in Providence Superior Court by a group of lawyers representing 226 people — the majority of those who survived the fire or had family members who perished.

Chicken abuse: Eleven workers from a poultry processing plant have been fired and fast-food giant KFC has halted purchases from the facility following the release of a secretly shot video showing employees kicking and stomping live chickens.

Pilgrim's Pride, among the largest poultry producers in the United States and Mexico, terminated three managers and eight hourly workers at its plant in Moorfield, W.Va. The company said it was continuing an investigation.

Louima lawyers: A federal magistrate in Brooklyn, N.Y., recommended that one of Abner Louima's original lawyers be denied any share in nearly \$3 million in legal fees that resulted from Louima's public brutality case.

The lawyer, Brian Figeroux, has argued that he and the other members of Louima's first legal team should be entitled to a share in the legal fees because they initially helped bring the case into the public eye.

Louima hired a new legal team which included Johnnie Cochran Jr., Barry Schick, and Peter Neufeld, who have said they should get all of the money because the first set of lawyers mishandled the case.

Drowned children case: Andrea Yates, serving a life sentence for drowning her children in a bathtub, asked her husband why he didn't bring them to visit her in prison last weekend, her attorney said.

"She thought the kids were still alive," attorney George Parnham said Wednesday.

Andrea Yates was transferred from the prison near Rusk, Texas, to a Galveston hospital Monday after refusing food and losing more than 20 pounds.

Gotti indictment: A federal racketeering indictment unseated Thursday charges the jailed son of late Gambino family boss John Gotti with the 1992 kidnapping and attempted murder of Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa, along with two other murder conspiracies and various other charges.

John A. "Junior" Gotti, who was scheduled to leave prison in two months after serving time on a 1999 racketeering conviction, was charged in the new indictment with three other alleged members of the Gambino family.

Drunk pilot charges: Florida prosecutors can pursue charges against two fired America West pilots accused of being drunk in the cockpit, a federal appeals court ruled



2000 Concorde crash: Air France Concorde flight 4590 takes off with fire trailing from its engine on the left wing from Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris on July 25, 2000. A French investigation shows the crash resulted in part from the hard debris that punctured the plane's tire, judicial officials said Wednesday.

Wednesday.

A federal judge previously ruled that the state did not have jurisdiction in the case, but a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta reversed that decision.

Sentencing guidelines: Asserting that a Supreme Court decision last month had created "a wave of instability in the federal sentencing system," the Justice Department on Wednesday asked the court to review as soon as possible two federal cases that call into question sentencing guidelines.

Simultaneously, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco on Wednesday overturned the sentence of a Montana methamphetamine dealer, which had been enhanced by a federal trial judge. The 9th Circuit said it was acting in response to the Supreme Court ruling in *Blakely v. Washington*.

The high court held that Washington's system, which permits judges to make findings that increase a sentence beyond the specific counts the jury convicted on, violates the defendant's Sixth Amendment rights.

World

Madrid death toll: The official death toll in the Madrid, Spain, train bombings climbed to 191 after the Interior Ministry added an infant whose mother was injured in the attack while pregnant with the child.

The infant died May 10, two days after he was born. His family said the child died because of injuries his pregnant mother suffered in the March 11 bombings.

Also, the official tally of wounded passengers and bystanders is about 1,600, the official said. Previous tallies exceeded 2,000.

English girls' murder: The mother of a woman convicted of obstructing justice in a sensational child murder case was jailed for six months on Thursday for intimidating a witness at the trial.

Shirley Capp, 61, from Grimsby in eastern England, was found guilty last month of threatening her neighbor, Marion Westerman, who gave evidence in the trial of Ian Huntley.

He is now serving two life sentences after being convicted of killing two 10-year-old girls at his home in the village of Soham in eastern England in August 2002. Capp's

daughter Maxine Carr, 27, was released from prison in May after serving 21 months in prison for lying to protect Huntley, her former boyfriend.

War crimes suspect: Police said Thursday they have issued an arrest warrant for fugitive Serbia war crimes suspect Goran Hadzic and will launch an internal inquiry to probe whether someone in the force helped him escape capture last week.

Hadzic fled his villa in Novi Sad, northern Serbia, last Friday, as an indictment by U.N. prosecutors was unveiled.

Chief U.N. war crimes prosecutor Carla Del Ponte accused Belgrade authorities of helping Hadzic escape by informing him of the indictment before it was released.

Saudi amnesty: A monthlong amnesty offered by Saudi King Fahd to militants who turn themselves in has failed to bring in hardcore militants responsible for the killings of scores of Saudis and foreigners in waves of attacks that began in May 2003.

Saudi officials, however, may have gleaned important information from the militants who have turned themselves in, and the officials stress that they have not let up on the hunt for those who remain at large.

Ukraine mine explosion: Rescuers braved high levels of gas and scorching temperatures in an eastern Ukrainian coal mine Thursday as they resumed searching for five miners missing since a massive methane gas explosion killed 31.

Officials said it could take three days for crews to reach the site where the miners' bodies were expected to be, because the shaft and tunnels at the Krasnolimnianskaya mine were still extremely hot.

Taiwan president shooting: Police showed blurry videotape footage of a middle-aged man who was the latest suspect Thursday in the mysterious March 19 shooting that lightly injured the Taiwanese president and his runningmate one day before they were narrowly re-elected.

The man was standing on the side of the street in the "hot zone" or the spot where police believe President Chen Shui-bian was shot, investigator Wang Wen-chung said at a news conference.

Stories and photos from wire services

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U.S. Marines kill 25 insurgents in Ramadi

By PAUL GARWOOD

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. Marines killed 25 insurgents and captured 25 others during fierce fighting in Ramadi, the American military said Thursday. A decapitated body, meanwhile, was found on the banks of the Tigris River in northern Iraq.

The gruesome discovery was made Wednesday, the same day militants announced they had abducted three Kenyans, three Indians and an Egyptian.

The decapitated body, found Wednesday night on the banks of the Tigris in the town of Beiji, was clad in an orange prison-style jumpsuit that kidnappers have forced some of their captives to wear before beheading them. Beside the body, which was still unidentified, was a head in a sac. Beiji police official Taha Abdullah told The Associated Press.

Bulgarian officials were investigating whether the remains were those of a man from that country identified as Iraylo Kevop, 32, one of two Bulgarians who were kidnapped June 29 near the northern city of Mosul.

Each Wednesday, a militant group calling itself "The Holders of the Black Banners" released a videotape of the seven hostages — all truck drivers for Kuwait &

Gulf Link Transport Co. The militant group said they would behead one hostage every 72 hours starting Saturday if their countries did not announce intentions to withdraw troops and citizens from Iraq.

Indian officials in Baghdad worked with Egypt and Kenya to free the captives, an Indian official said from New Delhi on condition of anonymity.

The daylong clashes in Ramadi began after insurgents detonated a roadside bomb near a Marine convoy Wednesday afternoon, and as many as 10 Iraqi fighters then attacked with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

That skirmish led to ensuing engagements pitting members of the 1st Brigade Combat team against an estimated 75-100 insurgents, the Marines' statement said. American ground forces backed by U.S. warplanes clashed with insurgents for hours, and the Marines safely detonated two homemade bombs, including one in a car.

Twenty-five insurgents died in the fighting and another 17 were wounded, the statement said.

Marines spokesman Lt. Col. T.V. Johnson said the situation in Ramadi was "relatively quiet" Thursday and "Marines continue to operate from bases within the



U.S. Army soldiers patrol in an armored vehicle near Haifa Street in Baghdad on Thursday. In Ramadi, U.S. Marines killed 25 insurgents during daylight clashes.

city, as they have since arriving early this year."

But Ramadi shopkeepers shuttered their stores Thursday, apparently in fear of more clashes.

Meanwhile, in the southeastern

Baghdad suburb of Zayouna, a roadside bomb exploded as a civilian minibus passed it Thursday, killing two people and injuring two others, said police Col. Abdel Karim.

In the northern city of Kirkuk, authorities said assailants attacked police forces in two separate incidents, killing one policeman and seriously injuring another.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, 895 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 661 died as a result of hostile action and 234 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 60 deaths; Italy, 48; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 757 U.S. servicemembers have died — 552 as a result of hostile action and 205 of non-hostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ A 1st Infantry Division Soldier was killed by an explosive early Wednesday near Duhayyah, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense:

■ Marine Staff Sgt. Michael J. Clark, 29, Leesburg, Fla., killed Tuesday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Combat Service Support Battalion 1, Combat Service Support Group 11, 1st Force Service Support Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Cpl. Todd J. Godwin, 21, Zanesville, Ohio, died Tuesday of injuries received in a hostile attack in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Killed Monday in a mortar attack on their base in Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.: Army Pfc. Charles C. Persing, 20, Albany, N.Y. and Army Sgt. Dale T. Lloyd, 22, Watsonstown, Pa.

Tens of thousands fleeing Samarra

Many fear battle about to begin between U.S. military, heavily armed militants

By DOUG STRUCK

The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Tens of thousands of people have fled Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, in recent weeks, expecting a showdown between U.S. troops and heavily armed groups within the city, according to U.S. and Iraqi sources.

Residents of the city said guerrillas told them to leave neighborhoods in anticipation of a larger battle after a clash on Tuesday in which U.S. warplanes bombed two houses, killing at least four people, according to military authorities.

"I will not go back to Samarra," said Mohammed Mohammed, 37. He brought his extended family of more than 70 brothers, cousins and children to Baghdad this week because of the dangers. "We expect the resistance will be very strong when the Americans go in. And the Americans have no mercy."

Samarra is now controlled by a volatile mix of tribes and gangs, some split along religious lines, and supporters of ousted president Saddam Hussein, according to interviews with numerous Samarra residents who have fled to Baghdad. On July 8, some of those groups launched an attack in which a car bombing was followed by a fierce volley of mortars, killing five U.S. soldiers and an Iraqi National Guardsman, and injuring 40.

Even before that, U.S. military authorities had been planning how to retake control of the city without a bloodbath. Officials there are determined not to let Samarra follow what they call the Fallujah model. U.S. forces made an agreement to stay outside Fallujah, a city west of

Baghdad, in order to end fierce clashes there during April.

The city is now under the control of insurgents.

"We're not going to make that pact," said Army Maj. Gen. John Batiste, commander of the First Infantry Division, which operates in the area. "Right now, it is a town where nobody is in charge. That, we will fix. At the end of the day, there will be a city under competent civil government."

U.S. military planners complained in private that Fallujah was a bad deal, allowing the city to become a rallying point and stronghold for guerrilla forces.

The U.S. military will try to mount a joint operation with Iraqi security forces, officials said. Under the plan, U.S. forces would likely seize Samarra in a powerful assault, and then have Iraqi National Guard or police patrol the city.

"It's not a situation that will necessarily evolve into what we saw in Fallujah in April," said Brig. Gen. Eric Lessel, the Army's deputy operations chief in Iraq. "We learned then how important it is to make sure we have capable Iraqi security forces in place to maintain security when the multinational forces withdraw from an area."

But formation of a competent and well-trained Iraqi force has taken more time than officials had hoped. Officials said it has been particularly difficult to mount a contingent willing to take on the challenges in Samarra. The mortar attack on July 8 was aimed at a compound used by U.S. and Iraqi National Guard troops. Since then, many of the guardsmen have quit, rather than participate in the fighting in Samarra, according to Mohammed.

"There's no National Guard. And the police in town do their patrols, but they take their orders from the mujaheddin," said Mohammed, who said he had been in Samarra on Tuesday.

"Right now, the mujaheddin and insurgents control everything," said Hassan, another Samarra resident who left the city with his family to move in with relatives in Baghdad. He refused to give his last name, fearing retribution.

Most of Samarra's 300,000 residents are Sunni Muslim, but the city also is home to two important Shiite shrines, and has a small minority of Kurds. Residents said relations with U.S. forces began to deteriorate after American troops fired on a wedding party last winter that was celebrating in a traditional way by shooting weapons into the air. The wedding party, members one of the larger extended clans in the city, vowed revenge. They have been joined by religious militants intent on waging a holy war, by former members of Iraq's disbanded Republican Guard who still sometimes wear their uniforms in the city, and an assortment of other tribes and groups willing to join the fight for sentiment or for money. Some of the fighters came from Fallujah, Mohammed and other residents said, and some came from outside the country.

The groups are threatening and killing anyone who they believe cooperates with U.S. authorities or even with the Iraqi government, the residents said.

For several weeks, Samarra residents have been slipping out of town. Many have houses or extended families in Baghdad, and have moved in. Some travel back and forth, depending on their reading of the dangers on a particular day.

Report: Terror fight needs another \$12B

By ALAN FRAM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will need an additional \$12.3 billion through September to pay for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and its worldwide effort against terrorism, congressional auditors estimate.

That is triple what Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, projected in April he would need to make it through September.

Lawmakers of both parties said at the time that his projection seemed too low, so the congressional projection issued Wednesday was no surprise.

Democrats quickly used it to criticize President Bush for underestimating the burden the wars — especially in Iraq — have thrust on taxpayers.

"He has grossly mismanaged the war on terrorism and the war in Iraq," said Mark Kitchens, deputy press secretary to Democratic presidential candidate Sen.

John Kerry, D-Mass.

Kitchens called the study "another example of how George W. Bush planned for best case scenarios and failed to prepare for the realities of war."

Rep. John Spratt, D-S.C., who led the study, said it underlined "another in a long line of miscalculations" by Bush on Iraq.

At the White House, budget office spokesman Chad Kolton defended the president.

"When it comes to making decisions about resources for our men

and women in uniform, the only thing that matters is ensuring they have what they need to get the job done," Kolton said.

The report was written by the Government Accountability Office, Congress' investigative arm formerly called the General Accounting Office.

Its release came a day before Congress was expected to approve a \$417.5 billion defense bill for next year that includes \$25 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. That \$25

billion will be available when Bush signs the measure, but it is unclear that the administration will use any of that money until the fall.

After Congress provided \$87 billion last November for Iraq and Afghanistan, the White House began this year insisting it would need no extra money until next year. Under congressional pressure, it requested \$25 billion in May for use beginning next October, when the government's new budget year begins.

IG finds 94 cases Of prisoner abuse

By MATT KELLEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military has found 94 cases of confirmed or alleged abuse of prisoners by U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan since the fall of 2001, the Army's inspector general said Thursday in a long-awaited report.

Sen. John Warner, the Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, who had been pressing for the results of the inspector general report for several weeks, called a last-minute hearing Thursday before Congress leaving the rest of the summer Friday.

The number is significantly higher than all other previous estimates given by the Pentagon, which had refused until now to give a total number of abuse allegations.

The inspector general investigation, ordered Feb. 10 after the allegations of abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq came to the attention of top Army officials in Washington, concluded that there were no systemic problems that contributed to the abuse. In some cases, the report found, the abuse was abetted or facilitated by officers not following proper procedures.

Most of the alleged abuses — 45 of the 94 — happened at the point where the detainee was cap-

tured, said Lt. Gen. Paul Mikolasek, the Army's inspector general. Of those 45 cases, 20 involved allegations of physical abuse and the rest were allegations of theft or other crimes, he said.

Twenty-one cases of alleged or suspected abuse happened at detention centers such as Abu Ghraib, Mikolasek said. Another 19 happened at collection points where prisoners are gathered between their capture and their transfer to long-term prisons.

Only eight cases happened during or surrounding interrogations, Mikolasek said.

In contrast to its own findings that there were no systemic problems, however, the Army report also cites a February report from the International Committee for the Red Cross that alleged that "methods of ill treatment" were "used in a systematic way" by the U.S. military in Iraq.

Seven members of the 372nd Military Police Company, an Army Reserve unit from Cresprington, Md., were charged in the prisoner abuse scandal, which unfolded this past spring with the release of pictures of abuse and sexual humiliation of prisoners at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison.

Questions also arose about prisons in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the deaths of detainees, as well as whether abuse was part of interrogations.

The Army has not yet made the

U.S. received man from private prison

By STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. military acknowledged Thursday it held an Afghan man for a month after taking custody of him from three American counterterrorist vigilantes who have since been arrested on charges of torturing prisoners at a private jail they ran in the Afghan capital.

The American military has tried to distance itself from the group, led by a former American servicemember named Jonathan Idema, insisting they were freelancers working outside the law. But spokesman Maj. Jon Siepmann acknowledged that the military had received a detainee from Idema's group at Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul, on May 3.

Siepmann said Idema had appeared "questionable" the moment he presented the detainee, and that suspicion grew when, one month later, the man turned out not to be the top suspect that Idema had described.

"It doesn't mean at the time that we knew Mr. Idema's full track record or other things he was doing out there," Siepmann said. "This was a person who turned in a person who we believed was on our list of terrorists and we accepted him."

Siepmann declined to identify the detainee or the fugitive he was mistaken for.

He said it was unclear how Idema, who officials say had been posing as a U.S. special operations soldier, identified himself to soldiers at Bagram, or if he asked for anything in return for the detainee.

The U.S. government has offered rewards for the capture of a string of top fugitives, including a \$50 million bounty on al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

Siepmann said officials were looking into whether Idema had other contact with U.S.-led forces here, but insisted he was in Afghanistan "entirely of his own volition."

entire report public but released parts during the public hearing.

The inspector general report, looking at the period from Oct. 1, 2001 through June 9 of this

year in Iraq and Afghanistan, is by far the most comprehensive examination of the abuse that sent shock waves through both the Arab world and the United States.



American Jonathan Keith Idema, 45, charged with running his own private prison and torture chamber in Kabul, stands trial in the Afghan capital on Wednesday. Idema and two others, Edward Caraballo and Brett Bennett, were arrested July 5.

Officials in Washington have also denied the three were employed or sponsored by any arm of the U.S. government.

Idema said he was in daily telephone and e-mail contact with officials "at the highest level," including in Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's office.

"The American authorities absolutely condoned what we did. They absolutely supported what we did," he said. "We have extensive evidence of this."

A Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was no evidence the men were in contact with the Defense Department.

And the report found that since the fall of 2001, the United States had held more than 50,000 prisoners in Afghanistan and Iraq, a number never before made public.

Saddam request filed

PARIS — Saddam Hussein's defense team asked the European Court of Human Rights to help grant it access to their client, a lawyer said Thursday.

Emmanuel Ludot, speaking on RTL radio, said the team wants to compel France to force Washington to follow Geneva Conventions requiring war prisoners to have access to defense counsel.

France, as a convention signatory, can be compelled to step in to force action by another signatory, including the United States, said Ludot, one of 21 lawyers who say they have been appointed by Saddam's wife, Sajida.

2,400 Marines pulling out of Taliban stronghold

By STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Some 2,400 U.S. Marines have pulled out of a Taliban stronghold in southern Afghanistan after killing more than 100 enemy fighters, their commander said Thursday.

The force, which lost just one soldier, has withdrawn to an American air base in the southern city of Kandahar and is preparing to leave the country, Gen. Frank McKenzie said. The withdrawal has already been announced.

The Marines were returning to

American warships "to await further orders," military spokesman Maj. Rick Peat said. He said there were no indications that the Marines would be redeployed in Iraq, but he said he didn't know where the ships were.

The contingent, part of the special-operations capable 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, deployed in late March in an attempt to lure militants from attacking preparations for historic elections.

But violence has continued and parliamentary elections have been shelved until April. A vote

for president is set for Oct. 9, more than three months later than originally scheduled.

Speaking to reporters in Kabul, McKenzie said he "would not challenge" reports that more than 100 enemy fighters were killed during the Marines' four-month tour in Uruzgan, home of fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Omar, and neighboring areas.

He declined to give an exact figure.

Cpl. Roland Payne, of Lakerdale, Florida, was killed May 7 during a nighttime firefight with Taliban insurgents. Eleven other Marines were injured in combat

operations, often conducted jointly with Afghan troops. None of the Afghans were killed, but about 15 were wounded, McKenzie said.

The arrival of the Marines, who are based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., brought U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan to about 20,000, the most ever. The overall American commander here, Lt. Gen. David Barbo, has said the force will set at about 17,000 once they leave.

A battalion from the 25th Infantry Division, which provides the backbone of the American force here, has already moved into Uruzgan to replace them.

1st AD families taking part in pilot counseling program

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

Soldiers and families of the Army's 1st Armored Division are participating in a study that could be used to improve how the military services support family needs of deployed troops.

Researchers at the Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University in Indiana have started a counseling pilot program "with the idea being to be able to create an infusion of resources for a unit that was very challenged," said Shelley MacDermid, co-director of the MFRI, and a professor of child development and family issues at Purdue. "We want to reach out to families wherever they are and help them deal with the things they're dealing with right at that moment," she said.

The Pentagon selected the 1st AD for the study because of hardships troops and families went through when nearly 18,000 1st AD soldiers got word in April their deployments to Iraq were being extended beyond their once-promised 12 months "boots on ground." Orders were to be extended by 90 days, and possibly up to 120 days with demobilization, as the Army worked to respond to an increasing number of attacks by anti-coalition forces.

The news added disappointment to already-existing stress for both soldiers living and working in a combat zone, and families back home anxiously awaiting their return, MacDermid said.

This summer, the first group of 22 counselors visited six installations in Germany.

"From the get-go, the job was to be out and about talking with families, looking for the need and working to fill it," MacDermid said.

Since the study still is in its infancy, it is too early to determine what families' and soldiers' top needs are, but early results indicate most just needed someone to whom they could vent, she said.

"And families really just wanted someone to tell them that it was OK to feel what they were feeling, and to acknowledge the challenges they were facing," MacDermid explained.

A second group of counselors is slated to return this fall. Eventually, MacDermid expects the research will lead to better ways to prepare troops and their families for tough deployments before loved ones ship off to war zones or for long periods away from family, she said.

"Resources need to be infused at installations that have a high need," such as those with deploying troops, she said. "This is something the operations side might do, and it makes sense to do it on the family-support side, too."

The study with the 1st AD is not the only one underway at the MFRI, a research program at Purdue University funded by the Pentagon's Office of Military Community and Family Policy. The institute's mission is to conduct interdisciplinary, multi-level research that provides insight into the impact of quality of life factors on military members and their families.

"We're jointly studying ways to assist children transitioning between schools, looking how to make child care more affordable, determining what elements would make up a world-class reunion program for servicemembers returning from deployment," said Charles Abell, principal deputy undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness, rattling off projects for members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pension, which held a hearing Wednesday on military family issues.

"We're working with an Indiana National Guard unit studying the affects of mobilization and deployment on families, and we have a special project with Purdue University to assist the families of the 1st Armored Division, which was extended in Iraq beyond its 12 months," he added.

Eventually, researchers plan to reach out to other military services, MacDermid said. "We're now using the work with the Army, getting the pilot data, and plan to present a larger proposal... to be presented this fall seek in partnership with the DOD, and hope to be in the field in early '05" to study other service's units, he said.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil



RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Pvt. Luke Frey sits atop an armored personnel carrier Thursday outside Fort Operating Base Ironhorse in Iraq. A carport-like structure was built to keep the soldiers who man the APC cool during their shift.

In the hot seat

Troops learn to keep their cool in Iraq's heat

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

FOB IRONHORSE, Iraq—For soldiers in Iraq, where summer temperatures are 110 in the shade—if you can find any—the biggest enemy may be the heat.

And while the weapon of choice to fight that enemy is air conditioning, leaders are making sure their troops are taking extra steps to avoid overheating.

At Forward Operating Base Ironhorse, soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team spend as little time as possible in the unrelenting sun, which can push the thermometer to 130 degrees in August.

Those manning guard towers and base gates work outside for four hours, then get eight hours in an area where they can cool down, said Lt. Shawn Turnage, the brigade's medical operations officer. Many of the outside areas also have canopies or modified carports to provide shade.

Other soldiers who must work outdoors complete their jobs in the evening, when temperatures are more bearable (in the 90s), he said.

Leaders constantly warn their soldiers to stay hydrated and watch for symptoms of dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion or heat stroke, Turnage said. The measures seem to be working.

Since the 1st Cav's deployment started in January, only eight people from 1st Brigade Combat Team—which includes soldiers, Iraqi National Guard members and KBR workers—have been treated for heat injuries, Turnage said. All were minor cases of dehydration with only one requiring intravenous fluids.

At FOB Ironhorse, soldiers live in buildings that were formerly offices and apartments. The rooms vary in size from one-man rooms to open bays that sleep six to eight people. All have air conditioning, said Capt. Ted Kaiser, base mayor.

The base also has a pool for physical training that the soldiers use in the early morning, evenings or occasionally during the day to cool down, Kaiser said.

Soldiers who conduct patrols outside the gate in full battle gear, including body armor, don't have many options when it comes to keeping cool.

Some of the up-armored Humvees have air conditioning, while other Humvees that have modified armor have mounted air conditioners to keep passengers cool, Kaiser said. Armored personnel carriers and tanks do not.

"I make sure I have plenty of water with me, and I bring a cooler of iced water," said Sgt. John Cox, a gunner.

KBR also provides bags of ice to the soldiers.

"If I get too hot, I just dump water on myself," Cox said.

"That seems to be a common practice."

"If I have to spend a lot of time outside, I pour water on my head to keep cool," said Sgt. Lori Luster, a supply sergeant from the brigade. Luster also uses a neck cooler, an item that works much like an ice pack and stays cool for a couple of hours.

Luster said she also drinks Gatorade and about three 1.5-liter bottles of water a day.

While the soldiers appear to be beating the heat, the base's generators aren't faring as well. Three of the 16 generators that provide all of the base's power supply were down on Thursday, according to Kaiser.

The generators are paired up and run in 12-hour shifts so that they won't overheat. Some of the generators are cooled by running water over their radiators, but the water flow to the base and surrounding neighborhoods has been cut, Kaiser said.

"When the water is running, these generators are at 100 percent power," he said. When the generators aren't cooled properly, output can drop to 60 percent. Additionally, only night shift workers are allowed to run air conditioning in their rooms during the day to limit power usage, Kaiser said.

Other generators and large air-conditioning units that are kept in the base's communications network up will have a new protection from the heat in a matter of days. Contractors are building shelters that consist of two layers of metal sandwiching a layer of insulated Styrofoam to keep the heat off the units, Kaiser said.

"Heat is our biggest enemy out here," Kaiser said. "Keeping up with it is a daily fight."

E-mail Rick Emert at: emert@smallstripes.osd.mil

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PHOTOS BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY (Stars and Stripes)

Above: A pair of horseback riders taking part in a change-of-command ceremony for the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment find a bit of shade next to a tree. Sitting atop a horse named Sawlan was Stephen Schaffert, left, while Sgt. 1st Class Lee Cofield, of Troop B, 1-1 Cav, watched the ceremony aboard Shazim. Schaffert owns the two horses. **Right:** With temperatures rising and troops just days removed from the Middle East, most soldiers taking part in the ceremony Thursday in Büdingen, Germany, were permitted to stand in a relaxed formation without their helmets on for part of the time.



Büdingen squadron welcomes new leader

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Stars and Stripes

BÜDINGEN, Germany — With many still in desert fatigues, the troops of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment bid their commander adieu Thursday.

Delayed by a month because of the need to keep the 1st Armored Division a bit longer in Iraq, the change of command ceremony looked traditional. There were speeches, dignitaries, a marching band, soldiers standing in formation and the ceremonial passing of the unit guidon.

Five days after returning home from the Middle East, Lt. Col. Charles Williams relinquished command of the squadron to Lt. Col. John Peeler. Peeler called the chance to lead the cavalry squadron "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," and said he would do his best to preserve its honor.

The ceremony was also festive, though in a respectful way. After all, it's still the Army.

But the troops and Williams were in a great mood. Most of the cavalry troops who served in Iraq arrived back at Armstrong Barracks in just the last few days. Williams, for example, returned Saturday.

"The soldiers look at [Büdingen] as a second home," Williams said in an interview an hour before troops fell into formation on the parade grounds.

The ties that bond the base with its host community run deep, deeper than most. The community goes out of its way to help the troops and their families, while the troops are deeply involved in community activities, in good times and bad.

Eighteen months ago, Williams and scores of other troops volunteered in the middle of the night to help local crews fill sandbags to save the old city center and its historic walls and gate.

"It's not only a partnership, but a friendship," said Erich Spamer, the mayor of Büdingen.



A cross bearing the name of Command Sgt. Maj. Eric F. Cooke is one of 10 that pay tribute to fallen members of the squadron, dating back to Operation Desert Storm. Cooke was killed in combat in Iraq.

As the parade field was being prepped for the 11 a.m. ceremony, many soldiers were headed to

reintegration briefings. Others could be seen rummaging through large, metal transport containers, trying to sort through gear and equipment sent back from the desert. Most troops were wearing desert — not woodland — fatigues.

"They're ecstatic," said Sgt. 1st Class Peter Baczek, a platoon sergeant in Troop C. "They're glad to be back home. Fifteen months is a long time."

Not everyone in the squadron made it home alive.

Three soldiers from Büdingen died during the deployment. Two died in accidents, Cpl. Robert D. Roberts and Pvt. Michael J. Deutsch; a third, Command Sgt. Maj. Eric F. Cooke, died in combat on Christmas Eve.

Fifteen soldiers were injured during the deployment.

As he stood at the podium on the parade field, Williams paid tribute to Cooke, Deutsch, Rob-

erts and the other 1st Armored Division soldiers who received a very different homecoming.

The deployment, though rewarding in many respects, "cost us a few of our close friends, like Command Sergeant Major Cooke," Williams said.

The names of the three squadron members have been added to new crosses planted at the foot of the flagpole on base. In all, 10 crosses represent the ultimate sacrifices the squadron has made since 1991, from Operation Desert Storm to the Implementation Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, to Iraq.

Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey, the 1st AD commander, attended Thursday's ceremony. Looking at the 89 streamers adorning the unit guidon, Dempsey told the troops that one or two would soon be added to the collection. And, he added, "You'll know what they mean."

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Ansbach MP gets a year in prison, loses pay for using, distributing drugs

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — An Ansbach-based military policeman was sentenced to a year in prison Monday after pleading guilty to using and distributing drugs last March at the home of another soldier.

Pfc. Kirby Smith, 20, of the 212th Military Police Company, also was ordered reduced to the lowest enlisted rank, will forfeit all of his pay and was given a bad-conduct discharge, said Capt. Evah Pottmeyer, a prosecutor in another soldier.

The judge, Col. Stephanie Browne, also sentenced him to 18 months, but that was cut because of a pretrial agreement with prosecutors.

According to a court document, Smith and another soldier, Spc.

Tyler Swafford, were shopping at the Würzburg post exchange on the afternoon of March 6 when they made plans to get high at home that evening while playing video games and drinking beer.

According to the document, Smith and Swafford were smoking marijuana with a third soldier, Cpl. Timothy Vernon, while waiting to buy Ecstasy pills and a four-ounce bag of marijuana rooms — a combination called a "hippie flip."

They then took the drugs back to Vernon's off-base house in Ansbach, where they ingested them, the document said.

A fourth soldier, who was present but didn't use any of the drugs, reported the incident the next afternoon.

Pottmeyer said charges are pending against Swafford and Vernon.

USO opens fourth Italy office at Caserma Ederle in Vicenza

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

The United Service Organizations has opened an office in northern Italy, complete with a director who knows more than a little about catering to troops.

The office, near the gate most vehicles use to enter Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, became the fourth USO location in Italy when it opened Thursday.

There are two USO offices in Naples and one in Rome.

Linda Lorenzana, the Vicenza director, comes to Italy after five years running the USO office in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The USO had a presence of sorts before the office opened. It arranged for soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Iraq to receive gift bags and helped bring singer Joan Jett onto base to entertain them when they returned from the deployment.

Lorenzana said the new office would be open

from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays to start off, but could be open more hours if there's a demand.

"I was open seven days a week in Bosnia," Lorenzana said. "So I'm not afraid of long hours."

Initially, the Vicenza office will concentrate mainly on services for those stationed on base. Those include a lounge with a large-screen television, VCR and DVD player, eight computer stations with Internet, four Xbox game stations and a kitchenette.

Eventually, Lorenzana said, the office will be able to arrange hotel stays and tours. In the meantime, those interested in traveling to destinations such as Venice — a half-hour's drive from the base via the A4 autostrada — can do so with the Rome and Naples branches via the Web site: info.uso.it.

The USO is a nonprofit organization that receives funding from dozens of corporations and private donors. It has more than 100 centers around the world at major tourist spots such as Paris, forward-deployed locations and military bases overseas.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harrisr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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Training from the ground up

Silver Flag exercise hones airmen's skills for all phases of deployment

By MARNI MCENTEE
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Airmen from all U.S. Air Forces in Europe bases are getting a refresher course in being expeditionary this week at the Silver Flag exercise on Ramstein.

About 200 airmen, including some from several Air National Guard and Reserve units from the United States, are participating in the 10-day exercise to prepare for all phases of deployment, said Senior Master Sgt. Les Jones of Ramstein's 435th Construction and Training Squadron.

The exercise started in 1979 at Ramstein to train civil engineers, but it has evolved to include dozens of Air Force specialties, including services, medical units, security forces and communications airmen. Silver Flag is held six to eight times a year, usually for airmen set to deploy in the coming months, Jones said.

For the second time, this exercise includes a segment called the Expeditionary Leadership Pro-

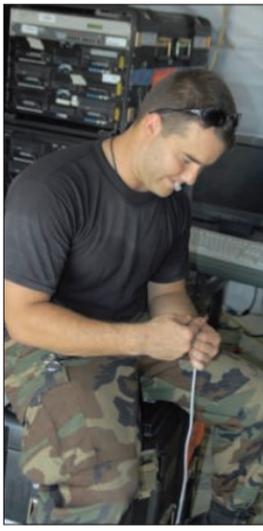
gram. The program trains airmen in the ranks of technical sergeant to major in the leadership skills they need to handle deployed troops, said Col. Charles Weiss, commander of the 38th Combat Support Center.

"The training helps them handle what they could face before they deploy, while they are deployed and after they come home," Weiss said. Troops' medical problems, marriage issues, equipment transport and building a tent city downrange are a few of the subjects covered, he said.

On Wednesday, airmen were building a tent city near Ramstein's flight line, where they will live until Saturday. They'll set up communications, a dining facility and emergency response teams, among other things.

"Everybody's got a piece of the puzzle," said Master Sgt. Tim Penwell of the 26th Combat Communications Squadron, an Air National Guard unit based in Chicago.

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PHOTOS BY MARNI MCENTEE/Stars and Stripes

Tech. Sgt. Jamie Killingsworth of the 269th Combat Communications Squadron, Ohio Air National Guard, splices cable for a communications center Thursday at the Silver Flag exercise at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.



Staff Sgt. Lakeisha El Hallouli, left, and Tech. Sgt. Ernest Peralta, of Ramstein's 435th Services Squadron, install cooking equipment Thursday during the exercise. About 200 airmen are training to deploy to a bare base.

Triathlons offer different trials for 3 Army lawyers

By JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — A trio of military lawyers have just closed one of their toughest trials.

Cpts. Gray B. Broughton, Ben Grimes and Travis W. Hall, all V Corps judge advocates, conquered the Opel Ironman Germany triathlon competition July 11. Now they're prepping for the Heidelbergman triathlon Aug. 1.

On its own, the Heidelbergman, with its 1.05-mile swim, 22.2-mile bike ride and 6.25-mile run, is a formidable feat.

But compared to the German Ironman competition — swimming 2.4 miles in a lake, pedaling 112 miles on bicycles throughout Frankfurt and its surrounding communities, and then running 26.2 miles up and down the bank of the Main River — the Heidelbergman is like a break to the lawyers' busy schedules.

Broughton finished the Ironman in the fastest time at 12 hours and 30 minutes. Grimes finished at 13:12 and Hall at 14:32.

The overall winner of Ironman Germany was Stefan Holzner who reached the finish line at the historic Frankfurt Römerberg square in 8 hours, 16 minutes, and 35 seconds, winning the qualifying event for the Ironman Triathlon World Championships in Hawaii.

When the lawyers realized they were all planning to participate in

the Ironman Germany competition, they sought to train together.

The command allowed the three to begin an alternate physical training program open to their company each morning. Usually, the alternate PT program consisted of various running activities.

In the afternoons, the triathletes continued training by swimming or riding their bikes.

Training, to this trio, was about stressing their body to make it stronger and more efficient. Not only were they in a perpetual state of fatigue, but also, they were emotionally and mentally engaged with their racing goals most of the time.

Add a wife or girlfriend, kids, a full-time military career and deployments, as well as outside commitments, and life for the three was pretty busy.

The juggling act was difficult for all the lawyers, especially Broughton and Hall, who have families to think of. But one felt the pressure more than Grimes. He is the master juggler.

"Yeah, it's tough when you have a girlfriend who lives in the States, plus a lot of extra curricular activities," Grimes, of York, Pa., said. "I was in a couple of theater shows, which is a big commitment outside of work, plus I have my regular work to keep up. Sometimes it's a battle between commitments and sleep. Sleep lost out on a lot of days."

While training for the German



JESSICA INIGO/Stars and Stripes

From left, Capt. Travis W. Hall, Gray B. Broughton and Ben Grimes, all V Corps judge advocates, prepare for the Heidelbergman competition in Heidelberg, Germany, on Aug. 1.

Ironman, Grimes also starred in the Roadside Theater shows "Proof" and "Victor/Victoria."

Grimes, 30, has completed two full Ironman triathlons, four half Ironman events where participants finish one-half of each event, many shorter distance triathlons, and three to four races a year over the past several years.

"My girlfriend only lets me do an Ironman every other year," explained Grimes, which is why he's taking next year off to get to know his girlfriend again before training for an Ironman in 2006 and the 2008 New Zealand Ironman competition.

For Hall, between work, family life and the Ironman, there really isn't time for much else. He said he tried to keep his training from affecting his family life too much by taking time to see special events in his three children's lives. For instance, he would always make time to attend his 10-year-old son Connor's baseball games.

However, next year he is being reassigned to Fort Knox, Ky., while his family moves to his hometown of Portland, Ore. Though separation will be difficult, it will be the perfect time to

commit to more serious training, he said.

Hall, who was always involved in team sports, said he began doing triathlons because "it's safer than doing Everest."

After the Heidelbergman, Hall said he hopes to compete in the Ironman Triathlon World Championships in Hawaii when he's 40.

"It just sounds like a great over-the-hill thing to do," said Hall, who's now 37.

Broughton will hang up his Ironman gear for at least a year after the Heidelbergman. His wife, Tamara, is due to have their first child in January.

"We're expecting a baby and my job is really busy, so I wouldn't be able to put in the time to workout. I would cheat myself," Broughton said.

Broughton has always incorporated sports into his life, but now he's planning to take a year off of major competition to enjoy his new baby.

Broughton, 28, said he was pleased with his time at the Ironman Germany, which was his first Ironman triathlon. He has done shorter triathlons, as well as races throughout the years.

A friend, Cabell Hatchett, who introduced him to triathlons, came from their hometown of Richmond, Va., to compete in the Ironman with him.

Broughton said he plans to make a comeback to Ironman competition in 2006.

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Bicycling event contact

HANAU, Germany — The 104th Area Support Group isn't backpacking on its support of a September cycling event, it's just that the ASG wants to give credit where credit is due.

And so the pat on the back — as well as the phone calls and e-mails — should go to either Larry Bostick, who came up with the idea, or the 414th Base Support Battalion, which is supporting his efforts. It's best to reach Bostick by e-mail at larry_bostick@104asg.army.mil.

The Pioneer Criterium is scheduled for Sept. 18 on Pioneer Casern in Hanau. A "criterium" is a bicycling event in which participants gather en masse at a starting line and then race around a closed-circuit course, often a half-mile to a mile in length.

Five races are planned, with riders divided by age and gender. One race is 40 miles, the others 30 miles.

Also backing the event is the U.S. Armed Forces Europe Cycling Team, which in the future might make the race part of its cycling series.

Change of command

Col. Walter Sawyer assumed command of the 29th Support Group, a subordinate unit of the 21st Theater Support Command, headquartered in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Sawyer replaced Col. Lynn Collier during the ceremony last Friday.

Sawyer's previous assignment was as a Joint Logistics Officer on the Joint Staff in the Logistics Directorate (J4) at the Pentagon in Arlington, Va.

Colyar moves to the Department of the Army, Headquarters G8, Force Development Logistics, in Washington, D.C.

The 29th provides direct general support maintenance, direct supply support, intermediate aviation maintenance support and multifunctional support in explosive ordnance.

From staff reports



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL TOLZMAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army



Army heads to Bulgaria for first time for Bulwark '04 exercise

About 1,000 soldiers from U.S. Army Europe and various units in the United States are deployed for the first time to the Novo Selo Training Area in Bulgaria for the Bulwark '04 exercise. The participating units will perform a series of simulation and live-fire combat scenarios.

This week, units held a medical rehearsal. Medical and surgical support was provided by 35 soldiers from Miesal and Landstuhl, Germany-based units. The exercise runs through mid-August. Top: A "casualty" is loaded onto a helicopter.

Above: A UH-60, from the 236 Medical Medical Company (Air Ambulance), based in Landstuhl, Germany, departs for Bourgas Regional Hospital in Bulgaria.

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Air Force moves to counter rise in airmen's suicides

Two-fold initiative to include renewed look at prevention, search for reasons

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Alarmed by a sudden uptick in suicides, Air Force officials are engaging in a two-fold campaign to determine the reasons behind the increase and re-invigorate the service's suicide prevention programs.

Just halfway through the calendar year, there already have been 27 suicides in the active Air Force, or 13 per 100,000.

While that rate is in line with the other services, it is a big change for the Air Force, which ever since inaugurating a model suicide awareness initiative in 1997 has enjoyed rates that are typically 25 percent lower than any of its sister services, according to Lt. Col. Rick Campise, the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program director.

According to service statistics, the Navy and Army suicide rate in recent years has been about 11 per 100,000 servicemembers, while the Marine Corps is a bit higher, around 13 per 100,000.

Those three services are in line with suicide rates in the civilian world, which also occur at a rate of 11 to 12 per 100,000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In the seven years since the Air Force has had a major prevention program in place, the service's suicide rate has averaged about 9.3 per 100,000, Campise told Stars and Stripes in a Tuesday telephone interview.

But beginning last fall, after three "normal" quarters averaged two or three suicides per month, something began to change for the Air Force.

In October, five airmen killed themselves. In November, the number of suicides rose to six.

Air Force officials immediately went on the alert.

"We said, is this the start of a trend?" Campise said. "It was difficult to tell," because overall numbers of suicides are so low when compared to a total population, such as the active Air Force's 373,000 airmen.

"One or two [additional deaths]

can make a big difference" statistically, Campise said. "That's why the epidemiological folk talk about trends in five-year cycles."

Nevertheless, "in the Air Force, we can't afford to wait for five years before we decide we have a problem, and that we need to do something about it," Campise said. "It's really frustrating for the Air Force, because we know we can make a difference" in reducing such deaths, Campise said.

The Air Force's new anti-suicide efforts includes two phases. First, officials are working to re-invigorate their Suicide Prevention Program.

"It's hard to maintain a successful program, because people do abate — they get used to it and stop paying attention," Campise said. "So we are blanketing" Air Force leaders, airmen and family groups with anti-suicide efforts.

Since November, eight service-wide messages and several suicide prevention memos have gone out from Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper and other senior leaders, Campise said.

Officials have also widely distributed two CD-ROM programs, "Leader's Guide for Managing Personnel in Distress," and a "Community Leadership and Violence Awareness Brief," to all major Air Force Commands and bases, he said.

A second, and more "daunting" task is to try and determine why more airmen are taking their own lives this year, Campise said.

The strains prompted by the war on terrorism are a possible culprit, but none of the Air Force's suicides this year or last have involved airmen deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, even airmen who recently returned, Campise said.

Still, "overall, demands on the military have increased, and not just for the deployed people," Campise said.

The additional work and faster pace "lends an ingredient of stress that is certainly not a [suicide] trigger, but may be a piece" of the puzzle, he said.

In August, the Air Force will, for the first time, grant civilian suicide researchers from Rochester, Baylor University, and Catholic University access to the personnel files of all airmen who have taken their lives in the past several years, Campise said.

The detailed information in the files — "more data than anyone has ever had access to for this kind of project," Campise said — should help officials understand who is most vulnerable to suicide, and why some airmen take that ultimate, and ultimately tragic,

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Army recruit pool at lowest level in 3 years

BY THOMAS E. RICKS
AND JOSH WHITE

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Army's pool of future recruits has dwindled to its lowest level in three years, worrying Pentagon officials as the service is stryching by the unexpectedly difficult occupation of Iraq. The Army watches the number of future soldiers in the "delayed entry program" — that is, those who have enlisted but have not yet been shipped to boot camp — as a way to make sure there is enough personnel in its pipeline to keep training camps fully manned in the coming months. That number has declined to about 23 percent of the total number of recruits being shipped this year — the lowest percentage in three years, said Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty, a spokesman for the Army's personnel office.

"It is an indicator that troubles us, but it isn't shocking," Hilferty said. He said Army officials believe that the situation is "cyclical" and likely to recover.

The drop, Hilferty said, reflects statistical factors more than a new reluctance among American youth — the Army he said, has expanded its training base, and so can take in more recruits rather than making them wait for spaces to become avail-

able. Overall, Hilferty said, Army officials continue to watch the recruiting situation with concern but remain confident that they will meet their targets. The Army's total recruiting target for this year was recently raised from 71,500, and is expected to be set at about 77,500, Hilferty said.

"There's no doubt that we'll make this year's mission, and we're confident we'll make next year's," he said.

Of his boss, Lt. Gen. Franklin Hagenbeck, the head of Army personnel, Hilferty said, "He's concerned about recruiting and retention — but he's always concerned about recruiting and retention."

Members of Congress also are expressing concern, especially about the National Guard and Reserve, which have seen their recruiting become more difficult in recent months as they have taken on more of the burden of the Iraq occupation. The Guard and Reserve make up about 40 percent of the 146,000 U.S. troops there.

"I heard yesterday from the National Guard back home in Missouri that their re-

tenition is, as a result of today's situation, sliding downhill very, very fast," Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., said at a hearing Wednesday of the House Armed Services Committee.

"It is an indicator that troubles us, but it isn't shocking."

Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty
Spokesman for the Army's personnel office

there, it has used "stop loss" to require some soldiers to stay in the Army after their scheduled end of service, and it has recalled thousands of other soldiers who have left active duty and are part of the Individual Ready Reserve.

So far, the Army has called up 5,600 soldiers from the IRR, and about 9,500 of the soldiers on active duty as of Sept. 30 will be part of the stop-loss program — about 2 percent of the entire Army, said Brig. Gen. Sean Byrne, the Army's director of mili-

tary personnel policy.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in an interview Wednesday that the Army is clearly stretched too thin in both personnel and equipment, as both take a battering during serious conflicts such as Iraq and Afghanistan. He said using stop loss and the IRR to fill the gaps are dangerous solutions.

"There's huge pressure to find any way to make their numbers," said Reed, who has worked to increase the size of the Army and believes the force still needs more. "They're just improvising every day. The fear I have is that there's an immediate cost, but also a much more profound long-term cost."

The latest indication of the strain on the Army is the new disclosure about worries about the size of the delayed entry pool. In 2001, the number of future soldiers in the pool, as a percentage of the total number of recruits joining the Army that year, declined to 22 percent, about where the ratio is now, Hilferty said. And a year earlier it had slipped to 19 percent. Historically, the Army is most comfortable when the level is around 35 percent, indicating that about one in three of the people who will go to basic training over the next 12 months already has signed up to join the Army.

3 carriers headed home to Norfolk

BY SONJA BARISIC

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — The world's largest naval base is about to feel a little more crowded: Three aircraft carriers, their support ships and more than 13,500 sailors are coming home over four days starting Friday.

By next week, three massive ships — the USS George Washington, the USS Enterprise and the USS Harry S. Truman — will have returned to Norfolk, disgorging many sailors who have spent months boarding vessels and supporting Navy pilots during the Iraq war.

"I'm really looking forward to putting my foot on dry ground," Petty Officer 2nd Class Shannon Clark, 22, ofennis, Mont., said Wednesday by satellite phone from the guided missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf.

While the George Washington deployed six months ago to support the Iraq war, the Enterprise and the Harry S. Truman left in



The USS Enterprise is one of three aircraft carriers — the other two are the USS Harry S. Truman and the USS George Washington — expected to arrive in Norfolk, Va., this weekend.

early June to participate with the George Washington and four other carriers in the "Summer Pulse '04" exercise.

A total of seven of the Navy's 12 carriers were away from port simultaneously during the exercise, an attempt to show the Navy can dispatch multiple carriers quickly — a major shift from the way carriers traditionally have been used.

The Enterprise strike group will be the first to return to Norfolk Naval Station, on Friday, followed by the Truman on Sunday and the George Washington on

Monday. The carrier USS Ronald Reagan, which also took part in the "Summer Pulse '04" exercise, was to arrive at its new home port in San Diego on Friday.

Each carrier's craft will fly home to various bases the day before the ship returns. In all, 20,000 sailors will be celebrating homecomings, including 17,500 on the East Coast.

Three other carriers remain deployed: the Mayport, Fla.-based USS John F. Kennedy, which relieved the George Washington; the USS John C. Stennis, based in San Diego; and the USS Kitty Hawk, based in Yokosuka, Japan.

Bigger Army would hurt modernization program, general tells Congress

BY PAULINE JELINEK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Spending money on permanent increases in U.S. Army troops would hamper efforts to modernize the service, the Army's top general said Wednesday.

Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker renewed the Pentagon argument that the military can get through the current high level of deployments with temporary increases such as mobilizing more National Guard and Reserve forces and encouraging more soldiers to re-enlist at the end of their duty.

"We are growing the Army as fast as we can grow the Army," he told the House Armed Services Committee. He was speaking at a hearing into Army transformation — the effort in recent years to switch from Cold War posture and make the service faster, lighter and more able to quickly deal with today's threats.

Against Bush administration wishes, the Senate and House have voted to add tens of thousands of troops to an Army stretched thin when the war on Iraq was launched on top of the global war on terror.

The two different bills still will be reconciled. The Senate wants to add 20,000 soldiers and the House 30,000 soldiers and 9,000 Marines to help solve the problem of an extremely high use of reservists as well as expanded and extended deployments for active duty and reserve.

Some lawmakers say they've also heard constituent complaints about the use of stop loss to bolster Army numbers.

Schoomaker said the disagreement is not over whether the Army needs to be bigger, but over how to pay for it and whether "we should encumber ourselves... in the out years with increased permanent" troop numbers.

"If we are encumbered, we end up trading off our modernization and transformational capability," he said.

Committee member Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher disagreed after the hearing, saying the stop-loss action and recent call-up of former soldiers in the Individual Ready Reserve "are desperate tactics that will cause difficulties with recruitment and retention."

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IN THE STATES

9/11 panel: U.S. didn't appreciate the threat

BY HOPE YEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States could not protect its citizens from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks because it failed to appreciate the threat posed by al-Qaida operatives who exploited that failure to carry out the deadliest assault ever on American soil, the chairman of the Sept. 11 commission said Thursday.

In issuing the panel's 567-page final report, commission chairman Tom Kean said none of the government's efforts to thwart a known threat from al-Qaida had "disturbed or even delayed" Osama bin Laden's plot.

"They penetrated the defenses of the most powerful nation in the world," Kean said. "They inflicted unbearable trauma on our people, and at the same time they turned the international order upside down."

While faulting institutional shortcomings, the report did not blame President Bush or former President Clinton for mistakes contributing to the 2001 attack.

Kean and commission vice chairman Lee Hamilton presented Bush with a copy of the report Thursday morning. Bush thanked them for a "really good job" and said the panel makes "very solid, sound recommendations about how to move forward."

"I assured them that while the government needs to act, we will," Kean said.

Surviving Sept. 11 victims and the families of the dead vowed to continue to chip away at the bureaucratic rigidity they said is really to blame.

"The idea is to get past that resistance and move forward," said Martha Sanders of Darien, Conn., whose daughter Stacey perished at the World Trade Center.

The commission recommended creating a new intelligence center and high-level intelligence efforts to improve the nation's ability to disrupt future terrorist attacks. An intelligence-gathering center would bring a unified command to the more than one dozen agencies that now collect and analyze intelligence overseas and at home.

Running the center would be a new Senate-confirmed national intelligence director, reporting directly to the president at just below full Cabinet rank, with control over intelligence budgets and the ability to hire and fire deputies, including the CIA director and top intelligence officials at the FBI, Homeland Security Department and Defense Department.

The panel also determined the "most important failure" leading to the Sept. 11 attacks "was one of imagination. We do not believe leaders understood the gravity of the threat."

The commission identified nine "specific



Chairman Thomas Kean, left, and vice chairman Lee Hamilton discuss the Sept. 11 commission's final report. The report concludes that a "failure of imagination" allowed the attacks.

points of vulnerability" in the Sept. 11 plot that might have led to its disruption had the government been better organized and more watchful. Despite these opportunities, "we cannot know whether any single step or series of steps would have defeated" the 19 hijackers, the report concluded.

Hamilton, a former Democratic congress-

man of the United States, none of these contacts "ever developed into a collaborative relationship" and that Iraq was not involved in the Sept. 11 attacks.

That question has been the subject of intense political debate, as critics say Bush exaggerated the contacts between al-Qaida and Iraq to justify the war.

The panel said it did not find evidence that Iran had advance knowledge of bin Laden's plans, or that Saudi Arabia's government had a role in the terror conspiracy, which involved 15 Saudi hijackers.

But both Kean and Hamilton said the United States should look into the possibility of ties between Iran and al-Qaida. And Hamilton urged developing a U.S.-Saudi relationship that revolves around political, economic and educational reforms within the Saudi kingdom.

Given new warnings about al-Qaida's desire to strike again on a mass scale, commission member James R. Thompson said all American leaders would be wise to take the commission's findings to heart.

The report, which is the culmination of a 20-month investigation into the plot that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, describes the meticulous planning of hijackers who sought to exploit weaknesses in airline and border procedures by taking test flights.

The panel's report says Iraq was not involved in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

man, appealed for political unity at the heights of America's power. A "shift in mind-set and organization" within the U.S. intelligence apparatus and a smoother transition between presidencies are also necessary, he said, to ensure "that this nation does not lower its guard every four or eight years."

The highly anticipated report provided new details on contacts between Iraq and al-Qaida, noting that Osama bin Laden began exploring a possible alliance in the early 1980s. Intelligence indicates that Iraq may have offered bin Laden safe haven, but he declined after apparently deciding that Afghanistan was a better location. The report says although there were some "friendly contacts" between Iraq and al-Qaida and a common ha-

would be "reshaped and repackaged."

Airlines have been responsible for determining which passengers get extra attention at security checkpoints. Since the 1980s, they've been using such criteria as whether a passenger is flying one-way or pays for a ticket with cash. Screeners also select passengers for extra attention.

That system, though, is viewed as ineffective because it flags too many people and doesn't confirm their identities.

CAPPS II would have used commercial databases to verify passengers' identity. Privacy advocates and airlines were con-

cerned about the invasiveness of such data-mining, which could wrongly suggest people are terrorists because of inaccurate data.

An aide to Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said the newest version of passenger prescreening would still check names against watch lists, but it's unclear what data would be used.

Homeland Security spokesman Dennis Murphy said CAPPS II was just part of a comprehensive approach to aviation security.

The number of federal air marshals grew to thousands from just a few dozen on Sept. 11, 2001.

Operational failures cited by 9/11 panel

The Associated Press

The Sept. 11 commission's final report outlined this series of "operational failures" by the government that allowed the terrorists to carry out their plot.

■ Failing to include hijackers Khalid al-Mihdhar and Nawaf al-Hazmi on a watch list. The two were linked by the CIA to al-Qaida and were known to have entered the United States in the summer of 2001, but government agents lost track of them. The two would later board American Airlines Flight 77, which slammed into the Pentagon.

■ Not sharing information linking individuals in the October 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen with al-Mihdhar, who had contacts with a longtime FBI informant. The Cole attack killed 17 American sailors.

■ Not taking adequate steps in time to find al-Mihdhar and al-Hazmi in the United States.

■ Not linking the August 2001 arrest of Zacarias Moussaoui to the threat of an upcoming attack. Moussaoui was arrested after arousing suspicions at a Minnesota flight school. He has admitted belonging to al-Qaida but denied he was part of the plot.

■ Not discovering false statements on visa applications of some of the future hijackers.

■ Not recognizing that some hijackers' passports were fraudulent.

■ Failing to expand no-fly lists to include names from terrorist watch lists.

■ Not searching airline passengers identified by a computer-based airline screening system known as the Computer-Assisted Passenger Pre-screening System.

■ Not hardening cockpit doors or taking other measures to prepare for the possibility of suicide hijackings.

Tighter airport security still a work in progress

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nearly three years after the Sept. 11 attacks, two key elements of the Bush administration's effort to bolster airport security remain works in progress: more rigorous background checks of passengers and a better way to check for explosives in luggage.

A plan to prescreen air travelers for terrorist connections, once described by the administration as an urgent need, has been sent back to the drawing board and only eight of 141 commercial airports have systems recognized as the best at quickly and effectively screening checked baggage.

The reasons for the delays are varied. Technology problems and privacy concerns doomed the passenger prescreening program, while the enormous cost has held up progress installing large bomb-screwing machines in airports.

The Transportation Security Administration said in January that the prescreening project — called computer-Assisted Passenger Pre-screening System, or CAPPS II — could be up and running this summer. But the agency never was able to allay concerns about privacy, and last week acting TSA Administrator David Stone said CAPPS II

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House passes act keeping judges out of marriage

BY MARK SHERMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican-led House of Representatives voted Thursday to prevent federal courts from ordering U.S. states to recognize gay marriages sanctioned by other states.

The Marriage Protection Act was added by a 233-194 vote, buoyed by backing from the Bush administration. Last week, the Senate dealt gay marriage opponents a setback by failing to advance a constitutional amend-

ment to ban same-sex unions.

Federal judges, unselected and given lifetime appointments, "must not be allowed to rewrite marriage policy for the states," Rep. Sue Myrick said.

Democrats said the bill was an election-year distraction, calling it an unconstitutional attack on gays in America and the federal judiciary. They said it would set a precedent that Congress could use to shield any future legislation from federal judicial review.

"They couldn't amend the Constitution last week so they're try-

ing to desecrate and circumvent the Constitution this week," Rep. Jim McGovern said.

The legislation faces long odds in the closely divided Senate, but were it to become law, gays and lesbians seeking to have their marriages recognized could seek help only from state courts.

It would strip the Supreme Court and other federal courts of their jurisdiction to rule on challenges to state bans on gay marriages under a provision of the 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act. That law defines marriage as

between a man and a woman, and says states are not compelled to recognize gay marriages that take place in other states.

"Marriage is under attack," said Rep. James Sensenbrenner, referring to the Massachusetts state court decision invalidating same-sex marriages. The legislation is needed, Sensenbrenner said, to prevent Massachusetts law from being applied nationwide.

A parade of Republican speakers lamented the unbridled power of federal judges to thwart

majority will, although no federal court has yet ruled on the 1996 law.

"This bill is quite simply a mean-spirited, misguided and discriminatory distraction," McGovern said. "The leadership of the House has decided to throw its politics into some red meat."

McGovern said Republicans' desire to rein in federal judges rings hollow three years after the 5-4 Supreme Court decision that handed Bush the presidency. "They had no problem with activist judges in Bush versus Gore," he said.

FDA rules Botox can be used to treat excessive sweat

Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Botox, the drug made famous by millions of unwrinkled brows, won the government's approval Tuesday to tackle another of the body's flaws: sweaty armpits.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the therapeutic use of Botox to treat severe underarm sweating, said Caroline Van Hove, senior manager of corporate communications for Allergan Inc., the maker of Botox.

Currently, 1.3 million Americans suffer from a severe sweat gland malady that

produces four to five times normal sweating, according to Van Hove.

Now, she said, they can get relief from an injection of Botox directly into their sweat glands. The treatment costs \$750.

Until now, treatment included surgery, the application of a powerful topical antiperspirant and saltwater injections, said Dr.

Dee Anna Glaser, vice chairman and associate professor at St. Louis University Medical School's Department of Dermatology. Van Hove described the side effects of the Botox treatment as "temporary and mild in nature," but may include allergic reactions, neck or back pain and anxiety.

The FDA first approved Botox in December 1989 to treat two eye muscle disorders, blepharospasm and strabismus.

It was then approved to treat cervical dystonia, a neurological movement disorder causing severe neck and shoulder muscle contractions and in 2002 as Botox Cosmetic to temporarily erase frown lines between the eyebrows in patients between 18 and 65 years of age.

Botox paralyzes the sweat gland by blocking the nerve that stimulates sweat, Van Hove said.

Glaser said she has been treating se-

vere underarm sweat for 15 years and has been using Botox as a treatment for at least seven years. The recent FDA approval means Allergan can now advertise the product. Dr. Mitchell Brin, senior vice president of development, Botox and Neurology at Allergan, described the approval as "another milestone in the history of Botox."

Insurance companies do not cover the use of Botox for this condition, because it's a new treatment. But the company considers the ailment a "serious medical condition," so Allergan offers financial incentives for people who cannot afford Botox injections, Van Hove said.

Clear Channel sues Stern distributor for \$3 million

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Clear Channel Communications, the nation's largest chain of radio stations, sued radio host Howard Stern's distributor Wednesday for \$3 million, accusing the shock jock of refusing to heed federal indecency rules.

Earlier this year, Clear Channel dropped Stern from six markets after federal regulators complained about his raunchy humor. Stern and his distributor, Infinity Broadcasting Corp., responded by suing Clear Channel for \$10 million.

On Wednesday, Clear Channel answered with a lawsuit of its

"We simply weren't willing to put the future of our radio station licenses in the hands of Mr. Stern or Infinity."

Andy Levin, chief legal officer, Clear Channel

own against Infinity.

Andy Levin, chief legal officer for Clear Channel, said the show was pulled because Stern and Infinity would not promise that the show would "conform to the law."

"We simply weren't willing to put the future of our radio station licenses in the hands of Mr. Stern or Infinity," Levin said in a state-

ment. "Fortunately, our contract doesn't require us to do that."

A Stern company, One Twelve Inc., also was named in the Clear Channel lawsuit.

San Antonio-based Clear Channel has agreed to a \$1.75 million settlement with the Federal Communications Commission to resolve indecency complaints



Stern

against Stern and other radio personalities.

A Stern spokesman did not immediately return a call for comment.

A spokeswoman for Infinity

declined to comment. Last month, Stern announced his show would go on the air in nine new markets owned by Infinity.

Chicago storm havoc

CHICAGO — Summer storms that swept through northern Illinois Wednesday evening left tens of thousands of people without power and delayed flights at Chicago's two airports.

A city aviation spokeswoman said Midway Airport had delays of 1½ hours for both departures and arrivals, while O'Hare International Airport had delays of up to an hour for arrivals.

About 112,000 customers were without power Wednesday night.

Asking for death

MARTINEZ, Calif. — A man convicted of murdering the daughter of blues guitarist Elvin Bishop and four other people in an extortion plot blurted out in court that the jury need not deliberate his fate because he wants to die.

As opening statements were about to begin in the death penalty phase of his trial Wednesday, Justin Helzer, 32, told the court that "I want this life to be over... I want to die."

Sex assault sentence

MADISON, Wis. — A man was sentenced to 180 years in federal prison for videotaping himself and a second man sexually assaulting two young girls, behavior the judge called horrific and depraved.

James D. Perry, 34, who faces separate state charges for a string of sexual attacks at malls, tearfully apologized. But a relative of one victim told the court on Wednesday: "There is no suffering that will possibly be good enough for what he has done."

From The Associated Press

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OPINION

Defining the enemy important in terror war

BY LEE H. HAMILTON

No public policy can succeed in a democracy without broad and sustained public understanding and support. All Americans — and policy-makers must heed this truth as we combat terrorism in the decades to come.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, words such as "al-Qaida" and "weapons of mass destruction" are heard at the local coffee shop. Shelves of books have appeared on terrorism, U.S. foreign policy and Islam. New security procedures are apparent everywhere from the airport terminal to the ballpark. Voters indicate they want counter-terrorism plans as much as health-care plans.

We're still figuring out how to act abroad, organize our government, set priorities and defend our communities. We have taken initial steps, but we are in for a marathon, not unlike the challenge facing Americans on the brink of the Cold War. Now, as then, success depends upon developing and sustaining policies grounded in the understanding, support and resolve of the American public.

To begin with, Americans must continue to acquaint themselves with the Islamic world. Specifically, we need a pool of experts and diplomats who speak certain languages, and comprehend diverse and far-flung cultures.

More broadly, Americans need to understand who the enemy is and why they hate us, while understanding that many Muslims resent U.S. policies but reject terrorism. The more we grasp the distinctions between

these groups, the more capable we will be in forging policies that enlist the support of moderate Muslims while isolating radicals and terrorists.

Right now, terrorists exploit the huge gap in understanding between the United States and the world's Muslims. No silver bullet can close that gap.

What can is the willingness of the American people to project and support a vision of opportunity — economic, educational and political — to people in distant lands, while vigorously defending our interests and security.

We cannot wish anti-Americanism away, nor can we withdraw from the world, or succeed through policies that generate more radicals and terrorists. This means thinking about how we can craft and communicate policies that represent both our interests and our values in a durable manner.

To succeed, we must determine whether institutions and norms designed in the last century are prepared to tackle new challenges.

For instance, the situations in Afghanistan and Iraq raise questions about whether we want a military that manages peace as well as it wages war.

The failures to foresee 9/11 and evaluate Iraq's WMD shed disturbing light on how our intelligence agencies are structured and function. The ease with which terrorists crossed our borders and exploited our open society challenges us to think about how we issue documents such as a passport or driver's license.

Public awareness can start even closer to home, far from the international or national debate. Is your local hospital equipped to handle an anthrax attack? Are your emergency responders prepared? Is the chemical plant on the edge of town secure?

Denying these questions does not make you a doomsayer. On the contrary, your efforts can have complementary bene-



fits such as bolstering the public health system or better securing dangerous infrastructure.

What is distinct about the struggle against terrorism is that individual citizens can make an extraordinary difference. These aren't just issues for study and debate.

Think of the passenger and flight attendant who found it odd that Richard Reid, the alleged "shoe bomber," was lighting a match near his shoe, and took action. We are in a struggle that depends upon individual action as much as public policy.

Government leaders must serve as both representatives of the people's interests in Washington and educators of the constituents back home. Government works best when it reflects the will of an informed and

engaged public.

The rancor and confusion that have swirled around many policy choices in the struggle against terrorism indicate that we can do better in putting partisan politics aside to build a consensus that is informed, effectual and lasting.

We are all adapting to new forms of risk. Finding our way through this challenge will be tough. Only by tapping the idealism, innovation and toughness of the American people can we sustain successful policies. Put me down on the side of the optimists.

Lee H. Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat, is vice chairman of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Against the United States (the 9/11 commission), the former chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the current director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

So far, Kerry tumbles when push comes to shove

BY MICHAEL GOODWIN

New York Daily News

John Kerry is about to be crowned King of all Democrats and he's got at least a 50-50 shot at being the 44th president of the United States. Sen. Hillary Clinton is but one of 100 senators. Any clash between the two should thus be a mismatch — and it was. Sen. Kerry never stood a chance.

If you're scoring at home, that's Clinton 1, Kerry 0.

Kerry's amazing about the spat over whether Clinton would get a prime-time conversation speech was how quickly Kerry retreated. No sooner had his aides insulted Clinton by saying, first, she hadn't asked for a role and second, the conversation was about the "future," they caved and asked her to speak. Begged would be more accurate.

Kerry's the king all right, but Clinton's the unchallenged Queen of Democrats — and the King better not forget it again.

Her supporters rejoiced at her triumph, but Republicans must be delighted, too, for the embarrassing incident reveals a weak spot in the Democratic nominee. Kerry is a man who can be rolled, quickly and often.

His surrender to Clinton was one of three cases in just a week when Kerry took a stand, then immediately folded his cards when challenged. ...

The first case involved the July 8 Bush-bash at Radio City Music Hall. A day after he praised Whoopi Goldberg and others as representing the "heart and soul of America," Kerry wilted in the face of media and GOP heat. Suddenly, he found Gold-

berg's lewd act inappropriate.

And on the same day as the Clinton fold, Kerry backed away from some of his own TV ads when black officials called them "lackluster."

Only a week after touting the \$2 billion buy as the largest ever aimed at black voters, Kerry agreed to scrap the ads. Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, said Kerry flubbed "by not showing the ads to the caucus first. 'It was corrected.'" Cummings says as Kerry agreed to the changes the caucus wanted.

Final score: Critics 3, Kerry 0. None of these incidents is fatal at this early stage, and Dem partisans will even argue they show a nuanced thinker willing

to listen and change his mind. ...

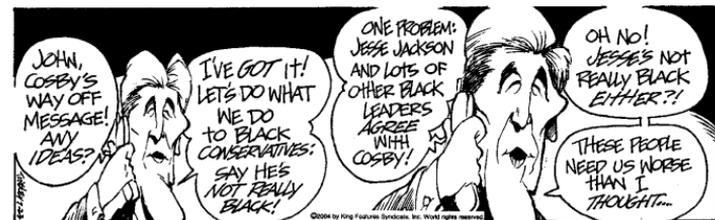
But it's also true that the three incidents play into the GOP attack machine theme that Kerry is a flip-flopper who can't be trusted. Even a top Dem stalwart conceded there are doubts about Kerry's "internal gyroscope."

Such doubts worry this Kerry supporter because of how he views the election landscape. To win, my Democratic sage says, Kerry must meet two tests: "He must convince people that he has a strong foreign policy, and he must show middle-class families that he cares about them and understands their problems."

He's right, but here's a third challenge. Kerry needs a Sister Souljah moment.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Fight ends in death

PA PITTSBURGH — Angry at his roommate for abandoning him at a bar and stuffing him for the tab, Chad Mulvin returned home with a head full of steam, according to police.

Once inside their home early July 2, Mulvin, 29, went looking for Joseph Larkin, 31.

Larkin told police that Mulvin went for Larkin's .22-caliber rifle.

During a struggle, the gun went off, striking Mulvin in the chest, according to a confession Larkin made.

As a result, county police charged him with one count of criminal homicide.

Using his sister's car, Larkin took Mulvin's body to his mother's home and buried him in a shallow grave in the back yard under concrete and leaves, according to a police affidavit.

Homicide detectives recovered the body early this week and Larkin was arraigned. The coroner positively identified the decomposed body as Mulvin's and said he had died of a gunshot wound to the chest.

Truck runs into eatery

NC SWANN — A dump truck careened off a highway Monday and barreled into a seafood restaurant just after lunch hour, injuring at least three people, authorities said.

Three patients were taken by ambulance to Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford, said Dianne Raynor, communications director for the Harnett County Sheriff's Department.

Peggy's Seafood Restaurant is about 40 miles southwest of Raleigh. Television footage showed the truck about halfway into a corner of the restaurant.

No one answered the telephone at the restaurant after the 1:30 p.m. crash. Authorities had not determined the cause.

No hold on hunt permits

AZ PHOENIX — A federal judge refused to put a hold on his order that the state change the way it allocates hunting permits.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission has been scrambling to meet a federal court order to make the process fair to out-of-state hunters. It had asked for a delay in the order.

Mudslides block the way

WV YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — Mudslides from an area stripped of vegetation by forest fires engulfed three vehicles and indefinitely closed the eastern entrance to Yellowstone National Park.

Park rangers helped free 16 people after the mud started flowing Sunday night following thunderstorms. Mud sloshed up to the hoods of cars, and some people had to be pulled out through car windows.

"I was told there was enough mud that you couldn't even read



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

the license plates to see what state they were from," Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash said Monday.

No one was injured. The slides, up to 10 feet deep and 90 yards long, blocked about three-quarters of a mile of the park's East Entrance Road at Silver Pass.

There was no indication when the east entrance, seven miles east of the mudslide zone, might reopen.

Inmates make beer run

TN ROGERSVILLE — The party's over for four jail inmates accused of walking away from an unlocked cell block, buying more than two cases of beer and returning to share it with other prisoners.

Ridgy Dean Coleman, Jimmy Joe Stapleton, David Wayne Blizard and David Allen Hopkins were charged Monday with escape and introduction of intoxicants into a penal institution.

The escape happened Thursday night after cell block doors at the Hawkins County Jail were accidentally left unlocked and a faulty control panel failed to alert jailers, Sheriff Warren Rimer said.

Two of the inmates then walked out through a fire exit, left the door propped open with a small Bible and made a hole in the exercise yard fence.

They walked to a nearby market, bought some beer and returned to the jail.

When the booze ran out, the



Social distortion

John Arthur, of Larel Bay, S.C., reacts to his mirror-distorted image as Cappy the Clown shows him his face during Children's Day at the Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park in Beaufort, S.C.

other two inmates made another beer run to a different store.

"At least they came back," he said.

No balloon permit

MD BALTIMORE — The state revoked the permit of Balloon Over Baltimore two days after the ride was stuck 350 feet in the air for nearly 90 minutes. The ride, located in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, had operated since 2001 without incident. The helium-filled balloon caused a scary ordeal when 20 passengers were stranded in the air.

New hurricane guides

LA COVINGTON — New electronic signs will be used to help steer traffic to the proper routes should the New Orleans metropolitan area face an evacuation during hurricane season. The signs will be located along Interstates 10, 12 and 59 in St. Tammany Parish and on Interstate 10 in St. John the Baptist Parish.

Out of service

IN SOUTH BEND — US Airways has decided to end its service at South Bend Regional Airport beginning next month, airport officials said.

The air carrier's four daily flights from South Bend to Pittsburgh are to end Sept. 7. The carrier accounts for about 11 percent of the airport's commercial passengers.

"I hate to lose this service," said John Schallio, the airport executive director. "We have had them since December 1982."

Twelve US Airways workers will lose their jobs in South Bend, Schallio said.

Brochure do-over

FL ORLANDO — U.S. authorities agreed to rewrite training guidelines for a program that would teach firefighters and workers who regularly go into homes to report signs of terrorist activity.

The decision to scrap 5,000 printed brochures came a week after civil rights advocates criticized the plan. The new guidelines will remove references to particular ethnic groups.

The brochure cautioned that "multiple adult males living together, usually of Middle Eastern appearance and between the ages of 18 and 45, with little or no furnishings" could signal international terrorism.

It also called for workers to report signs of drug trafficking and child sex abuse. **Quiet changes**

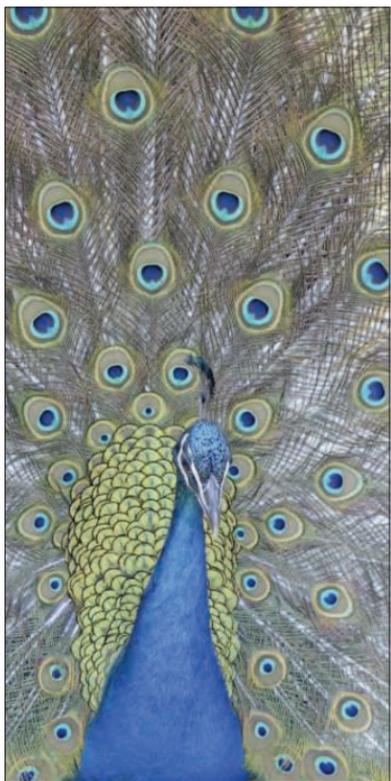
IA DAVENPORT — Some school districts are quietly adding sexual orientation to their anti-discrimination policies, largely avoiding the controversy that such a move might have generated several years ago. Davenport and North Scott schools recently joined a list of 15 other districts that now protect gay students.

Critics say all students are protected under discrimination and harassment policies.



Nothing left

Nancy Noot looks through rubble on her farm near Marion, N.D., that was destroyed by a tornado.



Showing his true colors

Botanical Garden in Arcadia, Calif.

A peacock wanders at the Los Angeles Arboretum and



A sweet snack

A butterfly feeds off the flowers of a Buddleia, or butterfly bush, on a sunny afternoon in Marlton, N.J.



Dreaded checkup

Babec, a 24-year-old, 400-pound silverback gorilla at Alabama's Birmingham Zoo, undergoes a transthoracic echocardiogram and a dental examination.



Flag waving

following a visit Tuesday.

Sailors onboard the Mexican tall ship *Cauhtemoc* salute as they leave Boston Harbor



Sleeping on the job

North Carolina State Rep. John Blust, R-Greensboro, takes a nap during the final hours of the 2003-04 session of the General Assembly.

Building a bridge

NJ SOUTHAMPTON — A key highway link between Philadelphia and the Jersey Shore was restored with the opening of a temporary bridge on Route 70. The bridge spanning Friendship Creek was washed out by floodwaters that ravaged portions of southern New Jersey a week ago. Officials hope to have a permanent replacement in operation by Labor Day weekend.

Ex-governor remembered

GA ATLANTA — Officials paid their respects to former Gov. George Busbee as his body lay in state at the Capitol rotunda. Gov. Sonny Perdue and former Govs. Carl Sanders and Joe Frank Harris led Georgia's official delegation. Busbee, who was governor from 1975 to 1983, died last week of an apparent heart attack. He was 76.

Lottery booms

MN WEST ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Lottery generated a record \$100 million for the state last year, Gov. Pawlenty said. Profits are up about 20 percent from the previous year. Acting Director Mike Vekich credited increased sales and cost-cutting moves. The news comes during a year when the lottery's founding director died and the legislative auditor issued a scathing report.

Limit on junk food

UT HEBER CITY — The Wasatch School District has become the first in Utah to limit sales of sweets and junk food to pupils. The policy as originally proposed would have completely banned soda pop and candy in vending machines. As adopted, it requires 70 percent of student vending machine offerings to be water, milk, 100 percent fruit juices and food meeting the district's minimum nutritional standards.

Rio not so grande

NM BOSQUE FARMS — The Rio Grande is drying out in a stretch south of Albuquerque, and biologists are working on what's become an annual event — rescuing endangered Rio Grande minnows stranded in isolated pools of water.

Early on a recent morning, Mike Hatch and Keith Basham and other crews were dragging nets through the pools, searching for the tiny minnows, in 23 miles of the river that have dried out between Isleta Pueblo and Elephant Butte.

"Lots of things are perishing out here," said Basham. "There's a lot we can't do."

Rewarded for integrity

FL MIAMI — A guilt-ridden fugitive who turned himself in in prison after 20 years served just 45 days in prison for drug smuggling because a judge was moved by the man's integrity.

Rene Azugaray-Cira, 62, who had been held in Miami's Federal Detention Center since he turned himself in last month, could have been sentenced to 10 years.

"Go home to your daughter and your little grandbabies and live out the rest of your life," Senior U.S. District Judge James Lawrence King said Thursday in sentencing Azugaray to time served.

Azugaray was arrested in 1984

after he was found on a boat loaded with marijuana. He pleaded guilty — though in court this week he said he was never a smuggler — but skipped his sentencing.

"I was scared," he said. "I panicked because I thought I would be going to prison for a long time."

For two decades, Azugaray built lobster traps and picked vegetables in Florida. But in the past year he reunited with his adult daughter, who urged him to turn himself in to ease his troubled conscience.

Cops accused in beating

NY NEW YORK — Three police officers were arraigned on charges that they beat a taxi driver near a Brooklyn mosque and then made false statements about what happened.

James Feola, Gregory Hepp and Francis Sanzone pleaded innocent to charges of second-degree assault during an appearance Friday in Brooklyn Supreme Court. Hepp and Feola also face perjury charges for allegedly making false sworn statements accusing the driver of assaulting them.

If convicted of assault, each of the officers could face seven years in prison.

The alleged beating occurred March 8 outside a mosque on Fulton Street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section, after the officers gave Boris Nkari, 31, a \$15 ticket for double-parking, authorities said.

It really works

WV MARTINSBURG — Joyce Stewart likely won't attempt first aid on herself again.

On Monday morning, Stewart used 3M's liquid bandage to treat a crack on her heel and within minutes her foot was glued to the floor. It took three paramedics more than an hour and a bottle of baby oil to free her.

The 59-year-old woman had positioned her left foot so that her heel was off the floor and applied the liquid to the back of her foot. Without realizing, the liquid had run from the back to the ball of her foot before she placed her foot flat on the floor.

With a knife, she tried to loosen the linoleum's grip on her foot.

But after her foot started to bleed, Stewart said she realized it was no laughing matter.

A 3M spokeswoman did not have an immediate comment.

Students sue over MCAT

CA OAKLAND — Four learning-disabled students sued the organization that administers the medical school admission test, alleging they were denied extra time to take the exam in violation of California's disability laws.

The discrimination lawsuit, filed Monday in Alameda County Superior Court, argues that students who have trouble reading can learn to practice medicine if they receive enough time and a distraction-free setting in which to complete the Medical College Admission Test.

Pierce and the other students allege that they asked the Association of American Medical Colleges to give them more time to take the MCAT's in April but were turned down because the organization said their disabilities were not severe enough.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES 'N' PLACES

Sexiest vegetarian poll out

The secret to Grammy-winning hip-hop? Maybe it's the veggies. Andre 3000 of OutKast has been voted the "World's Sexiest Vegetarian" in FETA's annual online poll. He shares the honor with actress Alicia Silverstone.

More than 12,000 votes were cast in the annual contest run by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Results were released last week.

Previous winners include Tobey Maguire, Lauren Bush and Shania Twain.

Silverstone and Andre 3000 beat out other contenders not known for their eating habits: John Cleese, Prince and "Weird Al" Yankovic.

Andre 3000, 30, is the flashier side of the hip-hop duo OutKast. OutKast's hip-hop jive won three trophies at the 2004 Grammy Awards: best urban/alternative performance for "Hey Ya!" and best rap album and overall album of the year for "Speakerboxx/The Love Below." It was the first rap album to win most of the awards in top categories. Silverstone, 27, has starred in films including "Cleese" and "Batman & Robin."



Andre 3000

North on tour in Jerusalem

Chris Noth, who played Mr. Big on HBO's "Sex and the City," greeted fans in Israel at Judaism's holiest site, the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Noth is on a 10-day tour of Israel, sponsored by the Israeli Tourism Ministry. He also filmed a commercial Monday for a brand of Israeli deodorant.

"I feel great solidarity, as a New Yorker, being here in Israel," the actor told reporters Tuesday. "I hope to show Americans that they should come here."

Incoming Tourism Minister Gideon Ezra presented Noth with a certificate of appreciation.

"This visit is very important to us," Ezra told The Associated Press. "Many celebrities have come to Israel, and we take very good care of our visitors."

"Sex and the City," starring Sarah Jessica Parker, was shown on a local TV channel and gained wide popularity among Israelis.

Noth played one of Parker's boyfriends on the show, which ran for six seasons. He recently finished filming a new movie, "The Perfect Man."

"Shark Tale" to be featured at festival

"Shark Tale," a computer-animated comedy featuring the voices of Will Smith, Robert DeNiro, Renee Zellweger and Angelina Jolie, will be a gala presentation at the Toronto International Film Festival Sept. 9-18.

"Shark Tale" also features the voices of Jack Black and Mary McCormack. It is set in the underwater underworld when a timid vegetarian shark named Oscar is fingered as the killer of a shark mob boss' son. It is set for release Oct. 1.

Organizers also announced this week that there will be a pair of matinee galas for the first time in the festival's 29-year history.

The North American premiere of "Shark Tale" will be one, and another title will be revealed later, bringing the total number of galas to 20.



DeNiro

R.E.M. steeples help

The steeple of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Athens, Ga., where the band R.E.M. first performed together in 1980, is in dire need of restoration and its owners are offering to give it to anyone willing to take on the expensive job.

The 135-year-old steeple is all that remains of the church after it was destroyed in 1990 to build a condominium complex. The owners of the Steeplechase condos kept the spire as a historic artifact, but the group is too small to raise the funds necessary to restore it.

Condo association manager Kate Hinton said the owners want to give the artifact to someone able to afford the restoration.

The 1980, R.E.M. lead singer Michael Stipe and guitarist Peter Buck moved into converted apartments in the church and held the band's earliest practices there. The group, which also included bassist Mike Mills and drummer Bill Berry, gained international prominence with hits including "Losing My Religion" and helped solidify Athens' reputation as a launching pad for popular music.

From the Associated Press



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHOTONIX
Stars and Stripes

New film 'I, Robot' is simply one more chance to prove Will Smith owns the summer season

BY JOE NEUMAIER

New York Daily News

Summertime is synonymous with Will Smith. Starting with "Independence Day" in 1996, the 35-year-old actor has starred in a bunch of big-budget action-adventure films released in prime blockbuster slots in early July. His latest, "I, Robot," opened in the States last week.

While there's more to Smith than his solar-powered smile and thermonuclear charm, he knows what season works best for his brand of star power.

"There's a connection I have with summer audiences — I know what this time of year means at the movies, I know what people are doing with their families, and I know what they need to start off their vacations," says Smith. "It's been July 4 for a lot of years — that's Big Willie Weekend! People feel they're in good hands. I know what they want."

He isn't about to upset the apple cart. Though Smith was Oscar-nominated for his performance as Muhammad Ali in 2001's "Ali," and has given good performances in such serious movies as "Six Degrees of Separation" and "The Legend of Bagger Vance," if he harbors unsatisfied creative yearnings, he's keeping them to himself.

Sequels like "Men in Black II" and "Bad Boys II" further suggest Hollywood doesn't want the star to stray far from his successful formula.

Smith says only the physical strain of action films may force him to give up the genre by the time he hits his 40s. Rather than feeling limited, he says he's adding subtext to his blockbusters.

"As I get older, it's going to be a necessity to have ideas in these films — you can only save the world so many times before people start saying 'All right buddy, we got it,'" he says. "Audiences are going to reject action movies where you just blow stuff up and a guy looks cool. These films need to be intellectually stimulating."

"After 'Ali,' I went back to [action films], but that do comfort. Some people, once they get an Oscar nomination, they get the bug to only do serious films. For me, I know I'll have time for that, so I didn't want to lose my connection to the younger in me."

"I feel confident at this point that I can pretty much do what I want. I've found a comfortable creative freedom. It's my decision which side of myself to show."

"I have to lose to lose." Asimov's 1950 short-story collection, reflects Smith's desire to make an adventure that takes place in a murkier moral universe.

He plays a Chicago detective in 2035, who investigates a robot accused of murder. Like "Blade Runner" and "Minority Report," the film touches on the idea of whether it's emotion, intelligence or violence that makes humans unique.

Nelson Goode, author of "Buppies, B-Boys, Baps, and Bohos: Notes on Post-Soul Black Culture," says that Smith occupies a unique place in pop culture. "There haven't been many black performers like him — there's nothing brooding about him, you don't feel any anger, the same as when he first made music in the '80s. People are attracted to his aura. There may be dark corners to Will, but you don't see them."

On New Year's Eve in 1997, Smith married actress Jada Pinkett ("The Matrix Reloaded," "The Nutty Professor"), whom he met when she auditioned for a role on "Fresh Prince." The two were friends through Smith's three-year marriage to actress Sherree Zampino, whom he divorced in 1995 and with whom he has a son, Trey, now 11.

Though he and Pinkett Smith are looked at as one of Hollywood's most successful couples, he says the onscreen romance of "The Last First Kiss," which he is currently filming, is undiscovered territory.

"Young black couples will walk up to me and Jada on the street and say, 'Y'all got to stay together, because if you guys can't make it, none of us can!' We love that."

"But I've only recently gotten comfortable with movie romance. I've never wanted any woman to feel like I'm disrespecting her, and that's created a distance in my roles. I think there's a certain energy that you need in order to create [romance in movies]."

Smith's personal energy, though, has never been in doubt.

"There's real pleasure that I get out of being happy and getting people energized — that's when I'm at my best," he says. "I need that dynamic both selfishly and selflessly: I try to encourage everyone around me to go somewhere different artistically, to think differently."

Does that ever get exhausting for his wife?

"Jada and I can talk about things for hours, but when other people are around, yeah, I can wear her out," Smith says, flashing his killer grin. "I think my energy can get a little oppressive for her. But she understands that it's a life-force for our relationship, as much as it might get on her nerves."

"It's like, we all love the sun, but the sun can burn you sometimes!"

Horoscope

The Libra moon emphasizes connection, and the Leo sun puts a passionate bent on this usually friendly lunar influence. We toast to a bit of overboard in expressing our affection, which could produce some rather humorous results. This is a truly romantic night when the bubbly fun of friendship quickly melts into the dizzying spell of infatuation.

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(July 23) You're driven this year! You know what you want, and you get it. A successful business project gets you off to a fantastic start. Job offers come your way as a result. Single enjoy plenty of romantic prospects for summer fun but could get serious with one love in November. A windfall allows you to pay a debt or fulfill an obligation in September.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Friends need your support more than your advice. Think before you throw in your two cents. There's the "truth," and then, there's the "stone-cold truth." The former will keep conditions stable, and the latter could cause a rift.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Some of your faults you are loathe to give up. But they define what you cry. There is some truth to this, but your challenge is to broaden your view of yourself. Being free of bad habits doesn't necessarily mean boring.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Anyone you had a disagreement with can now be re-approached to happy results. People really do want to work together for the greater good — they just have different definitions of what that might be.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Take caution of mental clutter. Those in the yoga practice would call it "monkey mind." If you continue to listen, you'll feel as though your subconscious thoughts rule you, but indeed, there's a higher guide. Be quiet, listen.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Allow yourself to be pleased by your own progress, even if financially you

have nothing to show for it. Be patient; validation in the way of dollar signs comes soon. Friendship trusts competitive, which is not necessarily a bad thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Trust intuition over reason as you consider your career alternatives. You feel ready to move up, but if you want to be king or queen of the castle, you might have to dethrone someone. Choose your companions well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Skimming the surface won't do. Dig deep, whether you're clearing the garage, studying or trying to figure out what's on your loved one's mind. Let your bottomless curiosity drive you to more profound levels of understanding.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Streamline your life. Get rid of what you don't use. This is not a good day to buy a pet. If you keep it simple, you'll find yourself emotional and financially ready for any escapade, which is good because travel may pop up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Use influence wisely, others are following your example rather than your orders. Don't acquiesce to the demands of others or try to cover for a person who won't do his or her share. Say what is on your mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

There's nothing so irritating to you than seeing a problem you thought you had licked return to your realm in nearly the same form. There are people around you who don't learn and wind up involving you in their mistakes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your "garden" is blossoming with the seeds you sowed months ago. Some of this growth is unexpectedly quick, and you may have to rush and get ready to harvest the fruits of your labor.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Attempting to be all things to everyone puts you at a disadvantage, so stay focused on what you want. Take advantage of the bounty bestowed on you. Enjoy the perks of your job for all their worth.

Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



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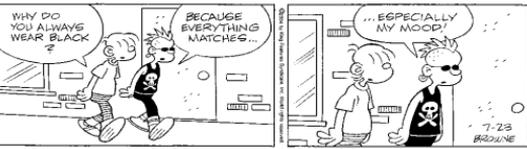
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Better or Worse



Peanuts



IN THE WORLD

Egypt, United States plan Mideast peace conference

Arafat agrees to cede some power; parliament demands more

BY RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The United States, Israel and Egypt are pushing to hold a Mideast peace conference in October to coordinate an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and advance an internationally backed peace plan, officials said Thursday.

The officials said the conference was at the early planning stages and there were obstacles to overcome — including Yasser Arafat's refusal to reform his security forces and corruption-plagued government — before the details can be finalized.

Arafat is in one of his most tenuous political positions since establishing his Palestinian Authority in 1994. His prime minister, Ahmed Qureia, submitted his resignation Saturday following a wave of kidnappings and mass protests.

Arafat refused to accept a resignation, but Qureia insists he is heading a caretaker government. The Palestinian parliament passed a resolution Wednesday demanding the veteran leader form a new government equipped with powers to provide law and order.

Parliament reconvened Thursday to discuss further pressure tactics.

A Palestinian lawmaker said after the meeting that Arafat has agreed to grant his prime minister full authority over the security forces.

In addition, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is trying to cobble together a coalition government that will back his plan to pullout of the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements by October of next year. War Party leader Shimon Peres said Sharon's advisers hinted at talks Wednesday that if the left-center party joins the government the pullout could be implemented more quickly.

Moshe Debi, an adviser to Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, said the sides want to hold the four-way Mideast peace conference — which would include Palestinian officials — in New York at the level of foreign ministers.

But an Egyptian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said his country preferred to hold the conference in Cairo at the presidential level.

A senior U.S. official, who also asked not to be named, said Washington supports the initiative, which was first proposed by Egypt earlier this month.

The conference would focus on planning between Israel, Egypt, the United States and the Palestinians for "the day after" an Israeli pullout from Gaza, the U.S. official said.

Israeli officials said it could be difficult for President Bush to become deeply involved in the Middle East a month before the U.S. presidential elections. However, the officials said, if Bush believes it could serve his electoral interests, he might agree to attend a conference on the presidential level.



Arafat

139 killed as high-speed train derails in Turkey

BY SUZAN FRASER

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — A new high-speed passenger train derailed Thursday in northwestern Turkey, and rescue officials said 139 people were killed and 57 injured.

At least four cars overturned near Pamukova in Sakarya province, with most of the damage in

two cars that crashed into each other.

Bodies lay near the tracks as people climbed on the overturned cars looking for survivors. Dark-colored buses hampering rescue operations, with soldiers searching the wreckage and treating the injured by flashlight.

It was not immediately known what caused the derailment of the train, a fast connection from Istanbul to the capital, Ankara.

There was controversy when the line started operating June 4, with critics saying the tracks were old and could not handle the new trains.

Still, authorities said they were not ruling out sabotage.

"We are assessing every possibility," said Muammer Turker, heading the crisis center in Sakarya. He said the train was carrying 234 passengers and 9 personnel.

Barroso seals EU presidency

BY CONSTANT BRASS

The Associated Press

STRASBOURG, France — Overcoming opposition in the European Parliament from leftists angered by his support for the U.S.-led war in Iraq, the new president-elect of the European Union's head office said Thursday he would move quickly to assert power in Brussels and mend ties with Washington.

"I am a European and proud to be such," Barroso told the parliament before the vote. "I will defend the general interest of Europe."

Former Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Manuel Barroso won strong backing from the 732-member EU assembly, which voted 413 to 251, with 44 abstentions, to back him as the next president of the European Commission.

Barroso called for a "coalition of the willing to advance with the European project."

Barroso is expected to face heavy lobbying from EU leaders, many of whom are keen to get the most powerful portfolios like competition or internal market for their representatives on the commission.

However, Barroso, reiterated that "he alone"

would dole out the jobs in a "strong and independent" commission and would not be pushed around by EU leaders.

Barroso will take up his post Nov. 1 at the Brussels, Belgium-based European Commission, which runs the EU's day-to-day affairs.



Barroso

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RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Sunday drive a near disaster for 'Little E'

Like many other drivers, Earnhardt will race anywhere, no matter the risk

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

Dale Earnhardt Jr. spends most of his time crunched inside the cockpit of a stock car, on a high-speed chase for a NASCAR Nextel Cup championship.

Add up 38 races a year, qualifying, practice and test sessions, Earnhardt probably spends about 700 hours a year in his No. 8 Chevrolet.

So when a free weekend opens up on his schedule, why would the son of the late Dale Earnhardt fly across the country to compete in an American Le Mans Series race?

"Driving race cars is what I love doing," Earnhardt Jr. said when announcing his participation in last Sunday's race at Infineon Raceway in Sonoma, Calif.

But what was supposed to be a fun, relaxing spin in a Corvette CS-R turned into a frightening accident during practice that could have jeopardized his regular job. His car burst into flames, burning him on his chin and legs.

Earnhardt slumped over his steering wheel as the flames engulfed him, and it took several seconds for him to scramble out of the car.

Back home in North Carolina, Earnhardt is resting while his Dale Earnhardt Inc. team prepares to race this weekend at New Hampshire International Speedway.

Second in the driver standings, Earnhardt cannot afford to sit out of Sunday's race. Since NASCAR does not have a substitute driver rule, Earnhardt must start the race to earn points and stay in contention for his first championship.

DEI plans to have Martin Truex Jr. on



Dale Earnhardt Jr. leaps from his burning Corvette CS-R after crashing during practice for the American Le Mans Series Infineon Grand Prix of Sonoma on Sunday, in Sonoma, Calif. Earnhardt, who is in contention for the Nextel Cup title, suffered only minor injuries.

standby in case Earnhardt can't finish. Truex has never competed in a Nextel Cup event, but he has tested at New Hampshire to prepare for his series debut there in September.

Still, using Truex as an injury replacement is not the ideal scenario for Earnhardt or DEI.

In hindsight, Earnhardt probably should have spent his last off-weekend of the season at the beach or in the mountains. Heck, even sitting on his couch in his living room would have been a better idea than competing in a race that meant nothing to DEI or the sponsors who pay millions for Earnhardt to drive his red Chevrolet.

But that's not how racers live their lives. "It's what we grew up doing," said NASCAR veteran Ken Schrader, who races in just about 60 non-Nextel Cup events. "If you just race on Cup weekends, then it's

your job. But racing is still my hobby. It's what I love to do. It seems like if there's a weekend and there's a race, then I'm supposed to be in it."

Earnhardt inherited that characteristic from his father, who was killed in a last-lap wreck in the 2001 Daytona 500. Dale Earnhardt introduced his son to extracurricular events, and the two even raced a Corvette together in the Rolex 24 at Daytona International Speedway about a month before the fatal crash.

Besides continuing the family business as the top driver at DEI, Earnhardt Jr. has made occasional appearances in non-NASCAR events.

Before Sunday, he most recently had teamed with fellow NASCAR star Tony Stewart and Britain's Andy Wallace to nearly win the Rolex race in February.

So he jumped at the opportunity to join

road racing specialist Boris Sid after week-end. Even from his hospital bed after the wreck, he didn't second-guess the decision. "I'm bummed out and disappointed. I couldn't run the race," Earnhardt said in a statement.

But future extracurricular activities will surely be scrutinized. "I'm sure there is always risk in all forms of motorsports, we support Dale Jr.'s efforts to become the most successful driver he can be," said Tony Ponturo of Budweiser.

DEI officials might not feel the same way. "But if Earnhardt is anything like his father — and so far, his toughness, determination and desire indicates he is — it will be hard for anyone to keep him out of a race car."

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 19: Siemens 300, 8 p.m. Sunday, AFN-Pacific

Last race: Tony Stewart won the Tropicana 400 at Chicagoland Speedway on July 11, but it was marred by a wreck with rookie Kasey Kahne that touched off a fight in the pits. Following a restart, Stewart passed Sterling Marlin on the outside and sidled behind race leader Kahne before tapping him into the wall.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Jeff Gordon, a three-time winner of this race, has jumped into 12th place in the Nextel Cup standings. He could finish in the top 5 with a strong run at NBS, which he won in 2001.

Dale Jarrett finished third at Chicagoland, moving him into 12th place in the Nextel Cup standings. He could finish in the top 5 with a strong run at NBS, which he won in 2001.

Bobby Labonte will try to stabilize in the chase for the championship without crew chief Michael McSwain, who was fired last week. Labonte is still looking for his five Cup races.

well. NASCAR fired Tommy Baldwin, Kahne's crew chief, \$10,000 and put him on probation for his role in the fight.

Last year: Jimmie Johnson stretched his final tank of fuel for 93 laps and held on to win the New England 300.

FAST FACTS

A new green-white-checkered format will debut this week, an attempt to get all Nextel Cup and Busch events to end with the cars racing. Races can no longer finish under yellow, if there is another caution after immediately. — Jimmie Johnson swept both races at New Hampshire last season after winning the 300-lap race on Sept. 14.

Qualifying record
Ryan Newman 133.567 mph, 2003.

Race record
Jeff Burton, 117.134 mph, July 13, 1997.

POINTS RACE

After 18 of 36 races

1. Jimmie Johnson 2,720
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr. 2,615
3. Jeff Gordon 2,478
4. Tony Stewart 2,418
5. Matt Kenseth 2,321
6. Bobby Labonte 2,278
7. Elliott Sadler 2,278
8. Kevin Harvick 2,229
9. Kurt Busch 2,211
10. Ryan Newman 2,173
11. Jeremy Mayfield 2,108
12. Dale Jarrett 2,083
13. Dale Murray 2,068
14. Casey Mears 2,044
15. Mark Martin 2,035
16. Casey Mears 1,998
17. Rusty Wallace 1,965
18. Michael Waltrip 1,960
19. Sterling Marlin 1,941
20. Brian Vickers 1,913

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Siemens 200 at Loudon, N.H. (Tape-delayed, midnight Saturday, AFN-Pacific)

Last race: With his father, Terry, looking on, Justin Labonte got his first Busch victory in the Tropicana Twister 300 in Joliet, Ill., on July 10. Labonte took the lead on the final lap after Mike Wallace ran out of gas.

Last year: David Green held off a hard charge from Kevin Harvick to win at New Hampshire International Speedway and remake the lead in the Busch standings.

INDY RACING

Last race: Monards A. Foyt Indy 225 at West Allis, Wis. (Tape-delayed, 1:30 p.m. Monday, AFN-Sports)

Last year: Tony Kanaan became the first driver with three victories that season after winning the Firestone Indy 250 at Nashville Superspeedway. Kanaan is the standings leader at the midway point of the season, holding a 65-point advantage over Dan Wheldon. **Last year:** Inaugural event.

FORMULA ONE

This week: German Grand Prix at Hockenheim.

Last race: Michael Schumacher won for the 10th time in 11 races with his victory in the British Grand Prix on July 11.

and moved within one victory of his season record of 11 set in 2002. His only loss of 2004 came at Monaco on May 16.

Last year: Juan Pablo Montoya won the German Grand Prix, speedily away after a crash on the opening lap that eliminated Kimi Raikkonen, Ralf Schumacher and Rubens Barrichello. Michael Schumacher had a fast fire while in second place and ended up seventh.

CHAMP CARS

This week: Molson Indy Vancouver in British Columbia, Canada. (Tape-delayed 9 a.m. Tuesday, AFN-Sports)

Last race: Sebastian Bourdais led all but three of the 64 laps and won the Grand Prix of Toronto on July 11 for his third straight victory. Canadian Paul Tracy had trouble the entire race, crawling twice and being penalized twice by race officials.

Last year: Tracy became the first driver in 11 years to win at Vancouver after taking the Toronto event. Michael Andretti previously did it in 1992.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

Last race: David Starr became only the second truck driver to win by leading only one lap in the Dodge Tough 300 in Madison, Ill. The race was scheduled for 350 laps, but was shortened by a caution four times for 14 laps.

Next race: Truck Budweiser 200, July 31, Brooklyn, Mich.

R. Wallace agrees to return to Pistons

BY LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Rasheed Wallace joined the Detroit Pistons less than two months before they started the playoffs, and their run for the title.

Wallace fit in so well — and the NBA champions can pay him so much — he decided to stick around.

The Pistons called a news conference for Friday morning to announce the signing of the unrestricted free agent forward.

Two sources who spoke Wednesday to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity said the deal is worth \$57 million over five years.

His statistics were not always impressive, but his impact almost always was after Detroit acquired him on Feb. 19 for reserves and two first-round picks.

The 6-foot-11, 230-pounder made a stingy defense one of the best in league history and an average offense better.

Wallace, who turns 30 on Sept. 17, averaged 16 points, 6.8 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.8 blocks last season, his ninth in the NBA.

Wallace, who made \$17 million last season, was acquired in a three-team deal to put the Pistons over the top.

They were among the top teams in the Eastern Conference without Wallace, with a 34-22 record. They were 20-6 in the regular season and 16-7 in the playoffs after adding him.

The Pistons beat the Los Angeles Lakers in five games for their third title, and first since 1990.

Wallace will be one of five returning starters for the NBA champion. He will be backed up by Antonio McDyess, who was signed to replace Mehmet Okur.

Wallace, a Philadelphia native, spent two years at North Carolina before being selected by Washington in the fourth overall pick in the 1995 draft.

Wallace was traded to Portland



Rasheed Wallace

following his rookie year and spent the next seven-plus seasons with the Trail Blazers. With his contract expiring, Portland traded Wallace to Atlanta, where he stayed for one game before he was dealt to Detroit just before the trading deadline.

Wallace was called for only two technicals in the postseason, a total that might have shocked some who followed his career in Portland.

He broke his NBA record with 41 technical fouls during the 2000-01 season, and was suspended for seven games for threatening an official after a game.

Hallauer holds off Jose, wins Army-Europe golf

BY RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

DORMSTADT, Germany — Omerstadt's Jeffrey Hallauer shot an even-par 72 Thursday for a victory in the Army-Europe golf championship.

Hallauer's three-round total of 219 was one stroke better than Heidelberg's Tyler Jose.

Tied with Jose at 3 over going into Thursday's final round at Heidelberg Golf Club, Hallauer took a three-stroke lead after nine holes, only to see Jose ride Nos. 10 and 11 en route to a 2-under 34 on the back nine.

Hallauer missed a par putt on No. 17.

"I left 17 that short," Jose said, holding his index fingers about three inches apart.

With a one-stroke lead going into the final hole, Hallauer uncorked a 320-yard drive that left him 56 yards from the flag. For all his length off the tee, Hallauer said this tournament was won on the greens.

"Drives don't matter," said Hallauer, who won this event two years ago at Wiesbaden's Rheinblick layout. "It's all about putting."

Hallauer was impressed with Jose's back nine.

"The back nine here is much tougher than the front," he said. "You try to score on the front nine and survive on the back. Today,

though, he was 2-under and I was 1-over."

Jose enjoyed the battle, too. "It was a great game of golf," the former Marine said.



Hallauer

Grafenwöhr finished 21 in the final round to capture the senior title.

Leaving the woods out of the bag, Goins finished at 9 over 225 for his fourth senior championship in five years.

"I played so bad the first two days. I thought I could play at least that good with just my irons," said Goins, the golf pro at Grafenwöhr who finished second in the 55-and-older category last year at Kitzingen. "I hit the ball real good today."



Goins

Jose missed and Estores of Vilseck was considerably over par all three days (99-90-99-288 on the 5,151-yard women's layout), but still ended her six-year hiatus from the game by taking the women's championship.

The 64-year-old was the only female entry this year.

"I didn't do too well, but I'd still like to have had other women to compete with," said Estores, who said she was playing golf for the first time since she last entered in 1985.



Estores

"I think maybe they were afraid of my exercise. It was three days of hot weather."

Rusty Bryan at bryan@starsandstripes.com Scores on Page 28.

Williams' lawyers resist retrial

The Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Jayson Williams' lawyers said the former NBA star should not be retried for the shooting of a hired driver because it would violate his constitutional protection against being tried twice for the same offense.

Besides the double-jeopardy argument, Williams' lawyers said in a motion filed Tuesday that evidence on a charge of reckless manslaughter should not be reintroduced if a retrial takes place.

They argue the law forbids it because jurors already acquitted Williams of the most serious charges of aggravated assault and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose using the same evidence.

Messages left with prosecutors Wednesday were not immediately returned.

Williams, 36, is scheduled to be retried Jan. 10 on the reckless manslaughter charge. He was acquitted in April of aggravated manslaughter, aggravated assault and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose in the shooting death of Costas "Gus" Christofi, but convicted on four counts related to covering up the shooting.

Jurors deadlocked on the remaining reckless manslaughter count, however, causing a mistrial and leading prosecutors to pursue a retrial based on the one count.

In Tuesday's motion, Williams'

lawyers also asked the judge to bar evidence of Williams' conduct after the shooting, saying it is irrelevant. They also say the charge should be dismissed on grounds of prosecutorial misconduct.

On Feb. 13, 2002, Williams invited several friends and members of the Harlem Globetrotters to a postgame dinner followed by a tour of his mansion.

Christofi, 55, drove four Globetrotters from the game and was touring the house with the others when Williams took out a loaded shotgun and snapped it shut in Christofi's direction. The gun discharged and the shot struck Christofi in the chest. He died within minutes.

Magic F Gooden expects to be released

From wire reports

Drew Gooden traveled to Las Vegas from his home in Oakland, Calif., last week to see the future of the Orlando Magic.

He liked what he saw in 18-year-old rookie Dwight Howard, the No. 1 pick in the draft. But he also knew what it meant: Both play power forward.

"I'm on the trading block, no question about that," Gooden said Wednesday from California. "I'm on the Magic roster now — and I'd love to stay my whole career there — but I also understand this business."

Gooden, 22, averaged 11.6 points and 6.5 rebounds last season, mostly in a reserve role because of veteran forward Howard, who was sent to Houston as part of the trade involving Tracy McGrady.

Instead of playing behind a vet-



Briefs

eran like Howard, Gooden likely will play behind a highly touted, multitalented rookie.

"If you're the No. 1 pick in the draft, the expectations are so high, you're automatically going to be a starter," he said. "And that's fine. He's a physical specimen. I would love to be around and help him. I'm not worried about starting. I'm worried about winning."

Pistons sign Dupree

DETROIT — Ronald Dupree signed a two-year contract with the NBA champion Detroit Pistons on Wednesday.

The 6-foot-7, 209-pound forward averaged 6.2 points and 3.0 rebounds in 47 games with the Chicago Bulls last season.

In Dupree's NBA debut, he scored a season-high 18 points on Jan. 7 at Miami. He started eight games for the Bulls, averaged 19 minutes per game, and scored in double figures 13 times.

Financial terms of the deal were not immediately available. Dupree was cut by the Pistons in October last year, before the season started. The former Louisiana State star was added to Detroit's training camp as an undrafted rookie.

He averaged 16.9 points for Huntsville of the NBDL before Chicago gave him another chance in the NBA. Dupree signed two 10-day contracts with the Bulls before they signed him Jan. 28 for the rest of the season.

Media groups appeal ruling in Bryant case

The Associated Press

DENVER — Media organizations have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene in their fight to publicize details from closed-door hearings in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case.

Lawyers for the media groups, which include The Associated Press, challenged a trial judge's ruling, which was upheld this week by the Colorado Supreme Court.

The groups on Wednesday asked the high court to stay that ruling. The filing was confirmed by an AP lawyer, Dave Tomlin.

The media groups asked Justice Stephen Breyer to put the ruling on hold pending a formal appeal of the state high court's decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The First Amendment clash centers on transcripts from a two-day private hearing in June that was reportedly e-mailed to the media groups by a court reporter.

District Judge Terry Rucklie-

gle quickly issued an order threatening a contempt citation against any news organization that releases details from the hearing, which focused on attempts by Bryant's lawyers to have his accuser's sex life vetted. Ruckliegle's order, although it acknowledged it amounts to prior restraint, which is barred by the Constitution. The court said such a step was permissible to protect the alleged victim's privacy rights and Bryant's right to a fair trial.

Prior restraint, the court added, "is necessary to protect against disclosure of information that is great and certain and would result from reporting."

Lawyers for the media groups, however, said Ruckliegle's order "cannot be constitutionally applied to the First Amendment principles."

Stupples takes lead in Evian Masters

The Associated Press

EVIAN, France — Keren Stupples shot 6-under 66 Thursday to take a one-shot lead over Laura Davies and Anika Sorenstam after the second round of the Evian Masters.

Stupples is 10-under after 36 holes following a round that included seven birdies and just one bogey.

"That was all-around enjoyable," said Stupples, who will be paired with Sorenstam on Friday. "But I must admit I'm a bit surly. I tried to find myself leading."

Sorenstam shot 69 while Davies, the leader after the first round, eagled No. 18 for a 71.

Davies bogeyed four of the first five holes, before making birdies on the seventh and ninth holes.

"Frankly, I considered heading for the beer tent," she said of her early struggles.

Stupples has been on the tour for four seasons but didn't win her first title until the Welsh/Fry's Championship in Tucson, Ariz., in March.

Teen phenom Michelle Wie shot her second straight 1-under 71 and was tied for 26th.

"Today was the best and worst round of my life," said Wie, who had six birdies and five bogeys.

Wie confirmed she would not play the British Open next week. As an amateur, Wie is permitted six sponsor invitations and said she has already filled those.

Romero, three others lead early in Senior British Open

PORTSMOUTH, Northern Ireland — Eduardo Romero, three-time birdies and shot 69 to share the first-round lead of the Senior British Open on Thursday.

Mastering a stiff breeze on the Royal Portrush links, Romero, playing his first seniors tournament, shared the lead with Ameri-



Keren Stupples of Britain, in her sixth season on the LPGA Tour, won her first LPGA event this year.

can Don Pooley, John Challis of Scotland and England's Jim Rhodes.

Defending champion Tom Watson carded a 75.

"I don't feel 50, I feel 35," said Romero, who turned 50 five days ago. "I'm very strong. I'm still hitting it 130 yards with the drivers. It's unbelievable."

"I am very happy with my opening round."

Pooley's 69 included two eagles. Rhodes, who began with a par and an eagle, collected 189 bottles of wine for an ace on the 189-yard par-3 sixth hole.

"I can't remember when I had consecutive eagles in a tournament," said Pooley, who made eagle putts of 35 and 20 feet on the ninth and 10th holes. "It was a nice comeback, especially as the way I started out with bogeys on three of the first four holes."

The four co-leaders are a stroke ahead of two Englishmen, Ian Mosey and Carl Mason. Mason lost in a playoff to Watson in last year's tournament at Turnberry.

Behind them are five players at 1-under, including three Americans, Bruce Fleisher, Tom Kite and John Jacobs. Fleisher is looking for his third victory of the season while Kite hasn't won for 21 months but has finished second five times.

Watson, who was close to pulling out of the \$1.6 million event because of a shoulder injury, made a 6-foot putt for an eagle on No. 2.

The five-time British Open champion bogeyed three of the next five holes.

"A 75 certainly doesn't put you out of the golf tournament by any means," said Watson. "You could get back with a 71 or a 70."

S. Williams wins first match since losing Wimbledon final

The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Serena Williams defeated Elena Daniilidou 6-1, 7-6 (3) Wednesday in the JP-Morgan Chase Open as she won her first match since losing the Wimbledon final.

Williams was upset 2½ weeks ago by Maria Sharapova at the All England Club, where she was seeking her third consecutive Wimbledon title.

In an effort to raise their rankings, Williams and older sister Venus are straying from their habit of not playing in the same non-Grand Slam tournament. They also are entered for next week's WTA tournament stop in Carlsbad.

Serena came into the Carson tournament — only her seventh of the year — ranked No. 16, her lowest spot since March 1999. She was No. 1 last August, when she had knee surgery.

Venus is No. 13 after moving up two spots since reaching last week's final at Stanford, where she lost in three sets to Lindsay Davenport. Venus lost in the second round at Wimbledon.

Davenport, seeded third, defeated Anne Kremer 7-5, 6-2 in just over an hour at the Home Depot Center. Kremer got into the main draw when another player was injured.

Other second-round winners Wednesday were: No. 5 Svetlana Kuznetsova, No. 6 Ai Sugiyama, No. 14 Chang Hui-chen, No. 15 Amy Frazier and Jelena Kostanic, who surprised No. 9 Patty Schnyder, 6-1, 7-6 (5). Tina Piskic of Slovakia withdrew.

Seeded players have tough day in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS — It took a set, but Sebastian Grosjean finally did what several other seeded players could not do Wednesday in the second round of the RCA Championships — beat a lesser opponent.

Little progress in labor talks

From wire reports

NEW YORK — The NHL held another round of labor talks with the NHL players' association on Wednesday at the league's offices in Manhattan.

In the first formal negotiation since late May, the NHL continued to pursue a salary-cap system for the next collective-bargaining agreement. The union continued to reject the idea.

NHL executive vice president and chief legal officer Bill Daly afterward said the league presented the union with "six different concepts for a new system that would achieve our objectives in collective bargaining."

Daly said the concepts were each "fundamentally different" and that not all included a salary cap.

However, union senior director Ted Saskin disputed that claim.

"They did put forth six new different system concepts," Saskin said. "But unfortunately, each one of them begins and ends with a salary cap and that does not provide any basis for any progress."

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and union executive Bob Goodenow were present for the four-hour meeting.

The sides will meet Aug. 4 in Toronto; the current CBA expires Sept. 15. NHL players' camps will not open if an agreement is not in place.

A lockout of the 2004-05 season seems likely. The NHL has been preparing for one since 1998, when it began collecting \$10 million per team to set up a \$300-million lockout fund to provide financially weaker teams through a lengthy work stoppage.

Earlier this week, more than half of the NHL's employees were issued termination notices effective Sept. 20, if no agreement is reached by Sept. 16.

Bettman insists on a salary-cap system for the NHL, which he said, is expecting to carry a loss of "well over \$200 million" from the 2003-04 season. Twenty of the 30 teams are expected to claim a loss.

The league wants to lower the percentage of league-wide revenue that goes to player compensation, which is currently about 75 percent.

The union isn't against that idea, but won't agree

to a fixed number that controls players' salaries. They are more amenable to a luxury-tax system, which the league will not embrace.

Red Wings re-sign LW Shanahan

DETROIT — Left wing Brendan Shanahan re-signed with the Detroit Red Wings on Thursday.

Shanahan, a 500-goal scorer and key contributor to Detroit's championship seasons in 1997, 1998 and 2002, signed for one year with a player option for an additional year. Terms were not disclosed.

Blackhawks pry D Cullimore from Lightning

CHICAGO — The Chicago Blackhawks signed former Tampa Bay Lightning defenseman Jassen Cullimore to a multiyear contract Thursday.

Cullimore, a free agent, played in 79 games last season for the Stanley Cup champions, with two goals and five assists and 58 penalty minutes.

"He is one of the biggest defenses in the NHL. He is a veteran who logs a lot of minutes against the other team's top players," Blackhawks' assistant general manager Dale Tallon said.

Bruins re-sign veteran defenseman Gill

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins re-signed defenseman Hal Gill to a one-year contract on Wednesday, avoiding arbitration with the seven-year NHL veteran. The team did not disclose details of the deal.

The 6-foot-7, 250-pounder has missed just 14 games over the past six seasons. Last season the 29-year-old was second among Boston defensemen with a plus-16 rating.

Phoenix signs G Boucher to qualifying offer

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Coyotes signed goaltender Brian Boucher to a one-year qualifying offer Wednesday, avoiding arbitration.

Boucher, a five-year NHL veteran, led Coyotes goalies last season in games (40), wins (10) and shutouts (4). He also led the team in consecutive games and was one of two modern-era records set by the 27-year-old. He also had a record scoreless stretch of 332 minutes, 1 second.

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Pitching keeps Rangers on a roll in West

Drese a stalwart at home again in defeat of Angels; Boston pounded

The Associated Press

The Boston Red Sox sure could use the pitching the Texas Rangers are getting.

Ryan Drese threw seven innings in another impressive home start, leading Texas to a 3-2 victory Wednesday night over AL West rival Anaheim, while Boston's Pedro Martinez was hit

hard. He gave up a season-high eight runs and lost for the first time since May 16 in Baltimore's 10-5 victory over Boston.

Texas leads Oakland by 3½ games in the West and is six up on the Angels. If the Rangers can keep up their pace — currently, the best record they've had through 92 games — they could win the division for the first time since 1999.

"It's why we are in first. We have the hitters, but we have to pitch," said closer Francisco Cordero, who got his 30th save. "It's been an unbelievable season, not only for me, but the whole team."

The Rangers, who play in one of the most notorious hitters' park not located a mile above sea level, have always hit well at home. But before this season, their pitching was a weakness — and part of the reason they finished last four seasons in a row.

This season, Kenny Rogers has been the staff ace — an All-Star, he's 12-3 with a 4.34 ERA — and Drese is having the best season of his short career. He has a 3.58 ERA in 128½ innings — a major step forward compared to his combined 6.63 ERA over the past two seasons.

On Wednesday night, Drese held the Angels to two runs on five hits.



Minnesota's Justin Morneau slides safely into third as Tampa Bay's Aubrey Huff awaits the throw in the fourth inning of Wednesday night's game. AP

His 1.98 home ERA is second in the AL behind Oakland's Tim Hudson. All of Drese's victories have come at home, where his only loss was a 1-0 complete game against Houston.

"Drese kept the ball down all night," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "He's got a real good arm, but has really started to understand the importance of movement and locating pitches."

Orioles 10, Red Sox 5: Miguel Tejada drove in five runs for visiting Baltimore and David Newhan hit an inside-the-park home run.

Boston dropped eight games behind the first-place New York Yankees in the AL East. After a doubleheader against Baltimore on Thursday, Boston entertained the Yankees for a three-game weekend series.

Newhan's drive went off the

center-field wall as Johnny Damon tried to make a leaping catch. He grabbed the ball on the warning track and threw toward third, but left fielder Manny Ramirez dove and cut off the ball in short center. Ramirez then threw to shortstop Mark Bellhorn, who relayed to catcher Jason Varitek as Newhan slid in safely.

"That was a big mistake and we paid for it," Boston manager Terry Francona said.

White Sox 14, Indians 0: Mark Buehrle retired the first 19 batters and faced the minimum 27 to lead visiting Chicago over the Indians.

Buehrle (10-3) didn't allow a runner until Omar Vizquel lined a 3-2 pitch out of the reach of shortstop Jose Valentin with one out in the seventh inning. Buehrle

struck out four, walked none and was aided by two double plays in his first complete game since Aug. 8.

Carlos Lee homered twice and Valentin added a two-run shot for the White Sox, who took control with a six-run fifth.

Mariners 6, Athletics 5 (10): Bucky Jacobsen homered in the 10th inning, hitting his third homer of the season in just 21 major league at-bats.

Mark Kotsay, Bobby Crosby and Darrian Miller homered for visiting Oakland.

Yankees 10, Blue Jays 3: Gary Sheffield hit a three-run homer, and Enrique Wilson also connected for host New York.

Javier Vazquez (11-6) pitched six innings to beat Pat Hentgen (2-9) and the former AL Cy Young winner extended the long-

est losing streak of his career to seven decisions.

Tigers 4, Royals 2: Ivan Rodriguez, Rondell White and Marcus Thames homered to back Mike Maroth.

Maroth (7-7) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings. Desi Relaford homered for the visiting Royals in their third straight loss.

Twins 12, Devil Rays 2: Backup catcher Henry Blanco went 3-for-4 with a homer and three RBIs and the best Twins got a season-high 17 hits.

Luis Rivera hit a three-run homer, Justin Morneau had three hits and an RBI, and Lew Ford homered.

Brad Radke (6-6) allowed two runs and six hits in seven innings.

Carl Crawford homered for Tampa Bay, which lost for the 11th time in 16 games.

Stand: Other athletes have protested silently

STAND, FROM BACK PAGE

Delgado, from Puerto Rico, also opposed the U.S. military's longtime use of the Puerto Rican island of Vieques for weapons testing.

Delgado's opinion became more well known to New York fans in a column in The New York Times on Wednesday. In it, he said, "It takes a man to stand up for what he believes."

"I am not pro-war, I'm anti-war," he said. "I'm for peace."

Commissioner Bud Selig said he understood Delgado's position and that it was a sensitive subject. Selig said he'd like to talk to the Blue Jays' franchise leader in home runs and RBIs about the issue.

Other athletes have taken similar approaches.

NBA guard Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf of the Denver Nuggets would not stand for the national anthem during the 1995-96 season, which led to an indefinite suspension that was lifted two days later.

Division III basketball player Tom Smith of the Manhattanville women's team attracted attention for refusing to face the flag during the national anthem during the 2002-03 season.

"Most ballparks generally play 'God Bless America' on Sunday and holidays, but the Yankees do it at every game. It comes on after Sheppard, the stadium's longtime public-address announcer, reads a remembrance to the people serving in the military."

There was a chance during this series, Delgado realized that he might make the final out in the

top of the seventh and be on the field when the tribute begins.

"This is my personal feeling. I don't want to draw attention to myself or go out of my way to protest," Delgado told the Times.

"If I make the last out of the seventh inning, I'll stand there. But I'd rather be in the dugout."

Blue Jays General Manager J.P. Ricciardi said the team has not gotten any reaction from fans about Delgado's position. Team president Paul Godfrey has said he respects Delgado's opinion but opposes his political view.

"Standing in the box seats, Yankees fan Barry Phillips disagreed with Delgado, but said he would not boo him.

"I think it's totally disrespectful," he said shortly before game-time. "It's a slap directly in my face, as a New Yorker and an American."

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Torrid Dodgers finally tumble

Estes helps Colorado end L.A.'s eight-game streak

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Despite being down by six runs, the Los Angeles Dodgers felt they could stage another incredible rally.

Shawn Estes could feel it, too. Shawn Green homered with two outs in the ninth inning Wednesday night, and Los Angeles got the potential tying run to second before the Colorado Rockies held on for a 6-5 victory that snapped the Dodgers' eight-game winning streak.

Estes (10-4) won for the fourth time in five decisions and improved to 5-0 in nine starts this year against NL West teams.

Three of those wins have come against the division-leading Dodgers, who returned from a six-game road trip to Arizona and Houston and lost for only the second time in 16 games. "I knew they came in hot, so what you have to do is execute pitches and see what happens," Estes said. "I had some success against them in the first month of the season, but it wasn't a different ballclub now."

"There's a lot of energy over there and they believe they can win any game, regardless of how much they get down. I could sense that at the time. I felt that all they wanted was a little bit of a spark, and they got that in the sixth inning. It was all I could do to keep it 6-4."

The Dodgers, who came from behind to win all six games of their road trip, closed within two runs with solo home runs by Hernandez in the fourth and three runs in the sixth.

Hernandez doubled home one, Milton Bradley had an RBI groundout and Adrian Brel-



Colorado's Aaron Miles, left, dives over Los Angeles' David Ross to complete a double play Wednesday at Dodger Stadium. Los Angeles lost for only the second time in 16 games.

hit a sacrifice fly, which would have been a two-run homer if not for a leaping grab by left fielder Jeremy Burnitz.

Steve Reed relieved Estes with one out and two on in the seventh after Paul Lo Duca pinch-hit for Darren Dreifort. Lo Duca, in his second at-bat as a pinch-hitter this season, grounded into an inning-ending double play on the first pitch.

Reed pitched a perfect eighth, and Shawn Chacon got three outs for his 21st save in 28 chances. Chacon gave up Green's 13th homer before retiring pinch-hitter Robin Ventura with a runner on second.

"The sign of a good team is that you're never out of it," Dodgers catcher David Ross said. "I know that when Hernandez hit that home run, it was like, 'Here we come.' So nobody was packing it in. We can feel it in the dugout, and they can feel it. If you give us a little time, we're going to get some runs."

One night after watching teammate Jason Jennings give up a franchise-worst 15 hits in a 9-7 loss to San Diego, Estes allowed four runs on five hits and struck out five in 6 1/2 innings after limiting San Francisco to one run in a season-high eight innings last Friday.

The left-hander, who won 19 games for San Francisco in 1997, pitched for three other teams during the previous two seasons and won only 13 games. He made Colorado's roster out of spring training as a non-roster invite, and ended up starting the season opener. "I felt like I had a lot left in me, and I feel my best is yet to come," Estes said. "I took the offseason very seriously, and I knew that I was going to be able to contribute to any ballclub that gave me a chance. I owe a lot to the Rockies organization."

Dodgers lefty Kazuhisa Ishii (11-5) allowed six runs, seven hits and three walks over 3 1/2 innings in his second-shortest outing this season.

Williams does it all in Cards' 1-0 win

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Woody Williams took care of everything.

Williams threw seven innings of five-hit ball in 93-degree heat, got two of the

St. Louis Cardinals' three hits and scored in a 1-0 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers on Wednesday night.

"Hopefully this is the only time it's going to happen," Williams said. "They pitched good and I definitely got lucky on the second hit, and ended up scoring a run."

Edgar Renteria hit a sixth-inning sacrifice fly for the Cardinals (60-34), who have the best record in the major leagues and have won 11 of 12 at home. Overall, they've won 14 of 16.

Williams (7-6) outduelled Victor Santos (1-4) to become the 500 for the first time. He began the season 1-5 after being limited to five innings in spring training due to shoulder tendinitis, but he finished with a 2.49 ERA in his past seven starts.

"Woody stepped up," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "To pitch seven innings in that heat with that margin for error — outstanding."

Jason Iringhausen, the third Cardinals pitcher, worked the ninth for his 25th save in 29 chances. He has saves each of the past three days and struck out two of the three Brewers he faced, likely earning a day off Thursday.



St. Louis' Woody Williams three seven shutout innings, got two hits and scored the game's only run against Milwaukee on Wednesday.

"I was hoping he'd throw it because then we'd have gotten that extra base," La Russa said. "Tony was tagged up and ready to. That was a smart play."

"How is he going to throw him out from deep right?" Brewers manager Ned Yost said. "He's got no chance, less than zero. I'd much rather have the ball towards second."

Williams, who grew up and lives in Houston, appeared to gain strength as the game unfolded. Five of his strikeouts came in the last three innings.

"Early on I felt good," Williams said. "But I didn't have the command I had in the end."

Santos lost for the first time in eight road decisions this season, although he permitted only an unearned run in six innings.

In other NL games Wednesday: **Pirates 4, Braves 2:** Kris Benson became another strong start before the trade deadline, allowing five hits in eight innings to lead visiting Pittsburgh to its 17th victory in 22 games.

Benson, in the final year of his contract and not expected to re-sign with the Pirates, is being scouted by about a half-dozen teams as the July 31 deadline approaches. After the first, Benson (8-7) didn't give up a hit until an eighth-inning opposite-field single with one out in the eighth.

Phillies 2, Marlins 1: Ricky Ledeo hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning, and Kevin

Millwood (8-5) allowed one run, seven hits and struck out six in seven innings to help host Philadelphia end its nine-game losing streak against Florida.

Ledeo also robbed Damian Easley of a home run in the fifth.

Los Angeles' Burnett (1-5) allowed two runs and eight hits in 7 1/2 innings.

Mets 5, Expos 4: Montreal's Nick Johnson dropped a routine throw to first base with two outs in the bottom of the eighth, allowing Ty Wigginton to score the winning run for the Mets.

Richard Hidalgo hit a three-run homer for the Mets, who blew a 4-0 lead when reliever Mike Stanton gave up a three-run shot to Eddy Chavez in the seventh.

Astros 5, Diamondbacks 2: In Phoenix, Andy Pettitte (6-3) pitched a season-high eight innings, and Houston extended Arizona's losing streak to 10 games. Carlos Beltran and Craig Biggio homered the Astros. Pettitte took a five-hit shutout into the eighth.

Arizona moved within a loss of matching the team record of 11 in row set from June 18-29.

Padres 7, Giants 1: Jake Peavy won for the fifth time in six starts, and Rich Aurilia had three hits in his first game for San Diego.

Phil Neri had two of San Diego's 16 hits and drove in a run. Peavy (7-3) allowed four hits, struck out five and walked two in eight innings as the visiting Padres won for the sixth time in seven games.

Jeter is day-to-day with minor hand injury

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter has a small fracture in his right hand that kept him out of Wednesday night's game, but he does not need surgery and will not wear a cast.

Jeter was hit by a pitch from Tampa Bay's Victor Zambrano on Tuesday. Asked when Jeter will return to the lineup, New York General Manager Brian Cashman said Wednesday. "It could be as early as tomorrow."

Jeter had an MRI and X-rays in New York, and the team announced the results after the victory. The Yankees' captain is day-to-day with non-displaced fracture in a bone above his wrist. "He told me, 'I could be playing right now,'" Cashman said. "It could've been worse, but it's not good, either."

Jeter is hitting .278 with 14 home runs and 49 RBIs. The All-Star has gone 31 games without making an error, the longest active streak by an AL shortstop.

Sluggier Jason Giambi, however, is suiting him out. "I'm

Bothered by an intestinal parasite earlier this season, Giambi has been slowed by fatigue. Another set of doctors is trying to determine what's wrong, and Giambi said he was checked for cancer on Wednesday — nothing was found. Giambi will be examined for infectious diseases on Thursday.

Hart staying on as

Rangers GM for 2005

ARLINGTON, Texas — Texas General Manager John Hart will remain in his job for 2005, a year past his current contract.

Hart and owner Tom Hicks didn't decide how long Hart will remain as GM.

"As long as necessary, I think that's probably the safest way to put it," Hart said Wednesday. "I've made it clear that I'm going to be here."

Hart, 56, was in the final year of his three-year contract.

Red Sox obtain veteran

IF Gutierrez for Boston

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox obtained veteran infielder Ricky Gutierrez from the Chicago Cubs for a player to be named or cash. General Manager Theo Epstein said Wednesday.

With Pokey Reese on the disabled list and Nomar Garciaparra not ready for full-time duty, Boston's middle infield needed to add depth.

"We have some injuries at Triple-A middle infield as well, so we had to get on the phone the last couple of days and find a utility player who we feel comfortable playing shortstop," Epstein said.

Gutierrez, 34, played 24 games for the New York Mets and hit 175 before he was released in May. The Cubs signed him last month to a minor league contract.





Lance Armstrong, in the yellow jersey, leads Italy's Ivan Basso in Thursday's Tour de France stage.

Armstrong stages another victory

By JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

LE GRAND-BORNAND, France — With an amazing final burst of speed, Lance Armstrong won the 17th stage of the Tour de France on Thursday, extending his overall lead as he marches toward a record sixth straight title.

The stage victory was Armstrong's third in three days and fourth of this Tour, the fourth time he's won four times in a Tour. The Texan could get a fifth stage victory during a time trial on Saturday.

Armstrong, distinctive in the overall leader's yellow jersey, launched himself into top gear within sight of the line to sprint past German champion Andreas Kloden, winning by inches.

"No gifts this year," the five-time champion said. "I want to win."

Even Armstrong seemed to find his victory hard to believe. A wide smile on his face, he jubilantly thrust his fists into the air as he zoomed past Kloden, who had seemed destined to win until Armstrong found the extra burst of speed.

The victory, coming at the end of one of the hullest mountain stages this year, gave Armstrong bonus seconds that extended his overall lead on Italian Ivan Basso.

German Jan Ullrich was third in the sprint, followed by Basso. Both in the mountains and, on Thursday, in a sprint, Armstrong has been in a different class than his rivals. His lead of 4 minutes, 9 seconds over Basso should easily carry him through to the top of the podium in Paris on Sunday.

By the end of the final climb Thursday, only Basso, Kloden and Ullrich had managed to stay

with Armstrong and teammate Floyd Landis, who worked tirelessly to steer his leader up the ascent.

At the summit, Armstrong reached an arm over to Landis and gave him the green light to try to win. The finish was eight miles away, at the end of a long speedy descent.

"I spoke to Floyd at the summit and asked him, 'How fast are you in the descent?' He said, 'Very, very quick,'" he said. "Go! go!" Armstrong said.

Landis zoomed away but was quickly caught by Ullrich, which prompted Armstrong to catch up, followed by Basso and Kloden.

The five riders jostled for position as they sped through the final corners leading to the finish at Le Grand-Bornand in the Alps. As the line neared, Kloden suddenly squirted ahead and the stage seemed his.

But for Armstrong, the chance for another victory in his favorite race was simply too hard to pass up. With one final glance over his shoulder, he rocketed off in pursuit and found just enough speed to edge Kloden at the line.

"The Tour de France is so special," Armstrong said. "My form is super."

Armstrong dedicated his victory to Landis, who rode strongly for his leader Thursday but finished last in the sprint.

"I really wanted him to win the stage," the Texan said.

Armstrong now has 20 individual stage victories. He also has two collective wins, taking the team time trial with his U.S. Postal Service squad this year and last.

The other years when Armstrong won four stages in a single Tour were 1999, his first victory after a comeback from cancer, 2001 and 2002.

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Titans say goodbye to RB George

The Associated Press

After eight years and more than 10,000 yards rushing, Eddie George is without a job after being released by the Tennessee Titans as a salary cap casualty.

The team granted George's request Wednesday, releasing him

in time to catch on with another squad for training camp. George, who turns 31 in September, rejected the Titans' latest offer and asked for his release Monday.

The Titans wanted George back, but at a reduced salary. The team's final offer was \$1.5 million in base salary, considerably less than the \$4.25 million he expected to make this season.

In 2000, he ran for 1,509 yards, averaging 3.7 yards per carry. Last season, his average fell to 3.3 yards as he gained 1,031 yards.

George, who started 128 consecutive games for Tennessee, last year became the 17th running back to top 10,000 yards. He also scored 64 touchdowns for the franchise that drafted him No. 1 in 1996 after he won the 1995 Heisman Trophy with Ohio State.

In other NFL moves:
■ Houston signed quarterback B.J. Symons, who set 23 NCAA records his senior year at Texas Tech, his only season as a starter. He threw for 52 touchdowns and 5,833 yards last year.

■ Kansas City signed its top draft choice, second-round pick Junior Seau, to a six-year, \$10.5 million contract. Seau, a 6-foot-5, 336-pound defensive tackle from American Samoa, had 58 tackles and 2½ sacks last season for the Broncos.

■ The Buffalo Bills signed free agent linebacker Jason Gildon to a one-year deal worth a reported \$1.25 million. Gildon, due some \$3 million this year from Pittsburgh, was cut by the Steelers in June for salary cap reasons.

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SPORTS

Jays' Delgado takes a stand by sitting

First baseman protests war in Iraq by steadfastly refusing to stand for playing of 'God Bless America'

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fervently anti-war, Carlos Delgado quietly carried out his personal protest this season, refusing to stand when "God Bless America" was played at ballpark across the majors.

Most fans never saw him disappearing up the dugout tunnel or sitting on the bench. And even teammates who disagreed with the Toronto slugger's political stance accepted his right to call the United States' invasion of Iraq "the stupidest war ever."

This week, though, a lot more people noticed.

The Blue Jays played at Yankee Stadium for the first time this year on Wednesday night. It's the only park in the majors where "God Bless America" has been played every game since the Sept. 11 attacks, a fiercely patriotic place where active military members are still admitted free.

"I don't think that will be received too well," Yankees manager Joe Torre predicted Wednesday before the opener of the two-game series. "Just when Bob Sheppard starts announcing 'God Bless America,' they start applauding. If you do call attention to that, it won't be popular."

It sure wasn't. Delgado was greeted with scattered boos each time he batted — no telling whether that was related to his off-the-field opinions, or his status as an opposing star.

But there were brief chants of "USA! USA!" when he lined out in the top of the seventh. During a moment of silence before Kate

Smith's rendition of "God Bless America" was played during the seventh-inning stretch, derisive shouts were made in his direction.

True to form, Delgado was nowhere to be seen. He left the dugout when the last out was made in the top of the seventh, and headed to the clubhouse, and was removed from the game with the Blue Jays trailing by seven runs.

Delgado politely declined to elaborate before Wednesday night's game, though he said he stood by his previous comments. After the 10-3 loss, he deferred when asked about his remarks and the crowd reaction.

"No, I will not talk about it. Is that OK? Thank you," he said.

While big leaguers usually come to the top step of the dugout or onto the field to stand in silence during "God Bless America," Delgado does not make a public show of his stance.

In fact, until the first baseman spoke about the issue in early July to the Toronto Star, many people were not aware of how strongly he felt.

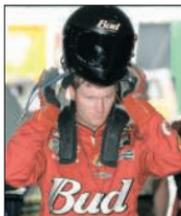
"It's a very terrible thing that happened on Sept. 11. It's (also) a terrible thing that happened in Afghanistan and Iraq," Delgado said at the time. "I just feel so sad for the families that lost relatives and loved ones in the war."

"But I think it's the stupidest war ever. Who are you fighting against? You're just getting ambushed now. We have more people dead now after the war than during the war," he said. "I don't support what they do. It's just stupid."

SEE STAND ON PAGE 33



Toronto Blue Jays' Carlos Delgado gets ready to play the sixth inning against the New York Yankees on Wednesday in New York. "I am not pro-war; I'm anti-war," the first baseman said. "I'm for peace."



Racing Stripes:
Earnhardt Jr., other drivers still willing to risk lives on their days off

Page 29



Armstrong pulling away
toward sixth
Tour de France
victory

Page 35



Angels fall
six games behind
red-hot Rangers
in AL West

Page 33

Darmstadt's Hallauer wins Army-Europe golf title Page 30

